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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

ASIA

Thailand's army declares martial law in a surprise announcement.
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LIFE & STYLE

Pamela Anderson credits animals with helping her survive years of abuse.
➤ PAGE 19

Judge: Non-NMD voters can vote on Article 12 initiative

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In a landmark decision, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled yesterday that qualified voters who are not of Northern Marianas descents must have the opportunity to vote on Article 12 initiative and any other initiative to amend Article 12.

In a 51-page decision, Manglona said that Northern Marianas descent, as defined in Section 4 of Article 12 of the Commonwealth Constitution, is a racial classification, and under federal law it may not serve as the basis for preventing otherwise qualified voters from voting on proposed amendments to Article 12.

"Even if Northern Marianas descent

See JUDGE on Page 4

2 groups plan zipline in Marpi; 2 others eye cable cars

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» DPL secretary says public lands running out

If investors would have their way, Saipan would have ziplines and cable cars in no time. Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that two separate business groups are each asking for public lands for a zipline in Marpi, while two other investor groups want to develop cable cars in two different spots.

"That's a lot of rides," Tenorio said in an interview, after presenting before the Rotary Club of Saipan the challenges that DPL faces.

Tenorio, a former lieutenant governor and former resident representative to Washington, D.C., said two investor

See ZIPLINE on Page 4

'No confidence vote' vs Muña

» Trustees cite 10 areas CEO failed to deliver

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Muña

By a 4-1 vote, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board adopted yesterday a vote of "no confidence" against CEO Esther L. Muña for her alleged continued failure to respond to requests for documents and information vital to the decision-making process of the healthcare agency.

Muña got the vote of no-confidence from board chair Joaquin Torres, vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, and

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2 casino investors face off

» Marianas Stars presents plan; Best Sunshine 'disappointed'
» First time both in 1 room filled with lawyers, consultants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Casino applicants Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. faced off in front of the Lottery Commission and the public on Capital Hill yesterday to vie for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan, amid at least two lawsuits over the Saipan casino law and other skirmishes.

It was also the first time for the two investor groups to be in the same meeting and in the same room with at least 10 private and government lawyers, a handful of consultants, and other community members.

Marianas Stars consultant Albert Davia of Five E Solutions, along with Cario Hon, led the investor group's public presentation of their business plan, four days after the Lottery Commission reconsidered its earlier rejection of the group's application, and a week since Best Sunshine presented theirs.

Marianas Stars plans to build a "Legend of the Ocean" integrated casino resort and theme park in four phases, the grand opening for which is in 2020. If granted the license, they hope to complete the first phase in 2017, inclusive of a 500-room hotel and casino.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. team share a light moment before their presentation of their business plan to the Lottery Commission yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

Before Marianas Stars could begin their scheduled presentation, Best Sun-

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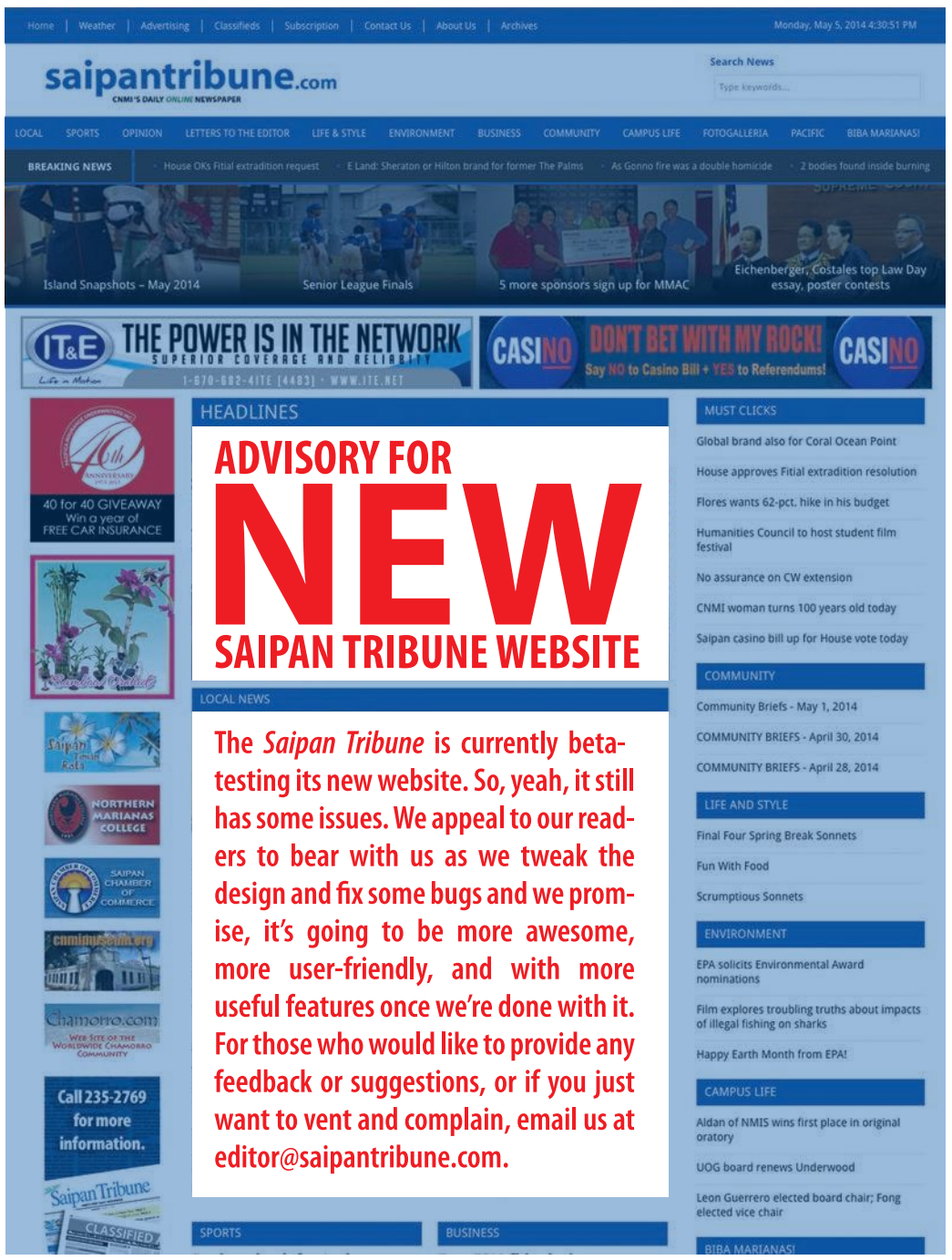
CHCC board warned: Resolution goes against CMS rules. PAGE 2
OPA files charges vs Tinian Finance chief Shai. PAGE 6

Local

CHCC board warned: Resolution goes against CMS rules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NEW
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The Saipan Tribune is currently beta-testing its new website. So, yeah, it still has some issues. We appeal to our readers to bear with us as we tweak the design and fix some bugs and we promise, it's going to be more awesome, more user-friendly, and with more useful features once we're done with it. For those who would like to provide any feedback or suggestions, or if you just want to vent and complain, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.
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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board disclosed yesterday that a resolution it recently adopted has reportedly been flagged by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as something that could jeopardize the hospital's recertification.

During yesterday's meeting, five board members—chair Joaquin Torres, vice chair Pete Dela Cruz, and trustees Roy Rios, Philip Mendiola-Long, and Tony Raho—waited about six hours for a teleconference with CMS executive Rufus Arther but that did not happen as of 3pm yesterday.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that CEO Esther Muña had informed the board that CMS is not going to recertify the Commonwealth Health Center as a result of Board Resolution 2014-02, which requests the CEO to issue within 10 days a determination on the medical privilege application of Dr. Grant Walker, either by issuing a 90-day medical privilege for the physician or a show-cause justification why the privilege should not be accorded the doctor.

The board resolution was passed last April 23, but Muña has yet to act on it. The resolution passed with oppositions from Muña and trustee Tony Raho.

Alarmed by this new information, Torres said the board has agreed to ask for a conference call with CMS' Arther to seek clarification.

The board, he said, extended the special meeting up to yesterday for the "scheduled" dialogue with CMS, but it didn't happen as expected.

Torres, along with Pete Dela Cruz and Philip Mendiola-Long, pointed out yesterday that what the resolution provides is to ensure that "due process" is adhered to in the credentialing of staff.

"I understand that we cannot force Mr. Arther to talk to us. But at least we made good effort to seek clarification on the CMS statement and position on the board resolution. We don't want to jeopardize recertification because we can't afford to lose the Medicare funding [for the hospital]," Torres said after yesterday's meeting.

According to Mendiola-Long, the board is "very curious

See CHCC on Page 4

NMC inks partnership with Rio Salado College

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart and Academic Programs and Services dean Barbara Merfalen announced yesterday that the college will be offering 19 additional degree certificate programs online starting this summer.

» 19 degree certificate programs approved for offering

The college's online program's expansion was the result of a partnership it recently inked with the Rio Salado College, recognized as a national leader in higher education specializing in distance learning.

In a news briefing yesterday at Pacific Islands Club, Hart said this partnership is just the beginning for the college as it is expected to bring more in the coming months.

Hart admitted that NMC's lack of funds has hampered its ability to offer CNMI students multiple online certificate programs. However, thanks to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, this has opened the door for NMC to partner with other community colleges and universities.

Rio Salado College is the largest online public community college in the U.S. It serves nearly 70,000 students annually (40,000 taking courses online) and offers more than 600 online classes and over 100 programs. It offers degree and certificate programs every Monday morning in lieu of the traditional start date of 2-3 times per year.

"The partnership with Rio Salado allows our students to take their general education or core classes at NMC and then transfer to Rio Salado if they would like to pursue degrees that we don't currently offer," said Hart.

What makes this an even greater benefit to the CNMI, she said, is that, with NMC being a member of WICHE, CNMI students are entitled to a lower tuition rate at Rio Salado.

Hart disclosed that prior to NMC's membership in WICHE, CNMI students were paying over $300 per credit at Rio Salado. With the discounted rate, the cost was reduced to about $121.50 per credit.

If a CNMI student wants to obtain a degree from Rio Salado College, they can start by going to NMC and take the necessary credit hours. For example, Rio Salado requires 64 credit hours for its public administration course. The student could complete 43 of these 64 credit hours at NMC and take the remaining 21 credits at Rio Salado to complete the degree.

The partnership between the two colleges was inked on May 13 during the WICHE commission meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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NEW COMMISSION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Northern Marianas College/University of Guam students Roland Dowai, second from left, and Wes Tomokane, third from left, on their commission as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army. They are joined in this photo by Mike Techur, Harry Blanco, and NMC students/SROTC cadets.

Poker operator fined $2K for not filing responses to online JVAs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody has sanctioned a poker operator to pay a $2,000 fine for violating a regulation that requires an employer to inform Labor of actions taken in response to job vacancy announcements on Labor's website.

Cody ordered Kosta LLC, owner of Leo Poker, to pay the fine in two monthly installments of $1,000 each on or before June 30 and July 30, 2014.

Cody also required Kosta LLC to post all its future job vacancies and job renewals on the Labor website, www.marianaslabor.net.

He directed the company to consider all responses posted on the website and to file its "declaration" describing any actions taken, for review by the Labor Citizen Job Placement Section.

Cody said the company shall hire U.S. citizen and U.S./CNMI permanent resident applicants when they are qualified and available to work.

Cody warned the company of further monetary sanctions if it fails in the future to comply with the terms of the order.

Labor held a compliance hearing on the case on May 6. Kosta LLC was represented by its assistant general manager, Gil Agulto.

In its determination, Labor's Enforcement Section charged Kosta LLC with violating Labor regulation that requires an employer to file a "declaration" (online response) on the department's website within 14 days after publication of a job vacancy.

According to Cody's order, Kosta LLC posted vacancy notices on Labor's website in March and April for four poker attendant/cashier positions and one general maintenance position.

Thirteen persons applied for the four positions as poker attendant/cashier, while three persons applied for the general maintenance position.

Kosta LLC never submitted a "declaration" to any of the applicants or Labor.

Agulto explained that he is actually employed by Soi In Corp. as an assistant general manager and that Soi In provides management services to Kosta LLC.

Kosta's principal, Jong Tack Lee, lives in Korea.

Agulto testified that he makes hiring "recommendations" to Lee, who does the hiring and renewal decisions for Kosta.

Agulto also testified that Soi In Corp. is in the process of purchasing Kosta and that the sale is expected to be finalized in the coming months.

Agulto conceded that he had not filed any online responses to the listed job announcements, explaining that when the online vacancies were posted, Soi In had just moved its offices to Finasisu. Agulto said he and the rest of Soi-In management had been preoccupied with the move.

In the end, Kosta renewed each of the CW workers in the five announced positions.

In his order, Cody said the testimony supports a finding that Kosta did not file online responses within the 14 days required by regulation.

Cody said Kosta failed to make a good faith effort to consider all U.S.-qualified job applicants who responded to the online job announcements.

In the end, Cody said, the company filled all of the five positions by renewing the CW workers who already held those positions.

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1 of 7 in 'ice' case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Bao Zhong Wang, one of seven persons arrested in February by joint local and federal law enforcers for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice," has pleaded guilty in federal court.

Wang pleaded guilty on Monday to a count of distribution of methamphetamine as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a $1-million fine.

Wang was represented by court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Wang's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Sentencing will be on Sept. 3, 2014, at 9am.

Wang, 46, is accused of selling 4.7 grams of "ice" to a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Administration on Nov. 27, 2012, in exchange for $1,350.

Aside from Bao Zhong Wang, the six others arrested in February were Xing Bo Fang, Yu Hua Wang, Hong Wang, Daniel A. Castro, Vicente S. Palacios, and Le Xiang Chen, 63. Most have already pleaded guilty.

1 Tinian beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Tinian Harbor and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from the site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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MUÑA

From Page 1

trustees Roy Rios and Philip Mendiola-Long. Voting against the motion was trustee Tony Raho, who participated via teleconference. The board being advisory only, the resolution has no legal force or effect.

Muña, along with acting CFO Cora Ada and Medical Affairs director Dr. Sherleen Osman, once again opted not to attend the meeting yesterday. No designee was provided as requested by the board yesterday, prompting the board to defer several items on the agenda.

The no-confidence vote made it to the agenda yesterday after trustees agreed to amend the agenda and included the item under new business.

Mendiola-Long said his no-confidence vote is a result of the "failures" that the CEO had demonstrated in key areas and not a personal attack on Muña's character, nor was it an "I feel pissed" reaction to her absence at the last two board meetings. He said it is strictly about the "management and professionalism" shown by the CEO.

Trustees said the no-confidence vote should serve as a "warning" for Muña to regain their lost confidence.

"At least, at this point in time, the board made her understand that we're not comfortable with the status quo, we're not comfortable with continuing to receive no response or answer [from her]," Mendiola-Long said.

Does Muña have the ability to perform as CEO? "That is the question we have today," Mendiola-Long said. "The confidence is no longer there because that 'ability' is not showing through."

Topping Mendiola-Long's list of Muña's 10 failures are the lack of a plan on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issue.

See MUÑA on Page 8

CASINO

From Page 1

shine chief operating officer Terence Tay made the lone public comment, not only to highlight their own business plan but also to express "disappointment" with the "events of the past week" that led to their competitor getting back in the race.

"Our competitor had been disqualified for not depositing the license fees in accordance with the RFP [request for proposals]. If they questioned or objected to the May 5th deadline stated in the RFP and the escrow documents which they signed prior to the closing of the RFP, perhaps this very unfortunate situation will not have unfolded," Tay, a former state counsel and deputy public prosecutor with the Attorney General's Chambers of Singapore, told the commission.

Tay said the two conditions imposed on Marianas Stars "cannot repair the injustice or end the injury."

"There will be a separate and more appropriate forum to address these issues," Tay said in the public comment period. He reiterated this point in a brief interview with reporters later.

Marianas Stars counsel Sean Frink, in a separate interview, took this to mean that Tay of Best Sunshine was alluding to suing the Lottery Commission for allowing Marianas Stars to compete.

Frink said Marianas Stars was "surprised" that Tay of Best Sunshine "demanded to be heard before our presentation" could begin.

He claimed that Tay's public comment was almost 15 minutes "and even went as far as to allude filing a lawsuit against the commission for its decision to allow us to compete."

"We suspect that this is because Best Sunshine fears competition for the Saipan casino license. We believe that our group has unique competitive advantages that our competitor does not possess, including having experiences in how business is done here," Frink said. "From our time here, we understand that making unnecessary threats is often understood as coming from a place of insecurity rather than strength."

Frink and Marcia Schultz represent Marianas Stars.

Best Sunshine, meanwhile, went to the Lottery Commission meeting yesterday with at least three Saipan-based lawyers—Mark Hanson, Colin Thompson, and Sheila Trianni. These last three lawyers said they were there to "observe," but were conferring with Tay.

Frink said Marianas Stars welcomes the competition "and believes strongly that the Saipan casino license should be awarded based purely on the qualifications of the proposer and the quality of their ideas for developing Saipan into a world-class tourist destination and we all know that it could be."

Tay, for his part, told the commission once again that Best Sunshine has worked hard to ensure that it meets—and exceeds—all the commission's criteria, including "financial capabilities, business experience, integrity and intent to benefit the people of the CNMI."

"Just in terms of financial capabilities, our company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has market capitalization of $500 million…I believe our nearest competitor has a market capitalization of 1/15th of ours," Tay told the commission.

The Lottery Commission, chaired by Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, went into executive session after Marianas Stars' presentation. The commissioners called in the Marianas Stars team to the executive session. They later called in Tay of Best Sunshine for a separate meeting, also during the executive session.

As of yesterday, the four-member Lottery Commission had yet to issue a statement on their decision to reconsider their May 8 rejection of Marianas Stars' application. On May 16, Marianas Stars, through Frink, pointed out that the deadlines that the commission announced were not in compliance with the two Saipan casino laws.

Moreover, as of yesterday, the Lottery Commission has yet to confirm in writing from Bank of Guam whether Marianas Stars indeed deposited $30 million on or before May 19. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the money was in on May 16. The second condition is a May 20 public presentation.

"Two applications are now under review," Igisomar said. He declined to comment further.

Other commissioners present yesterday were Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Deputy Attorney General Gil Birnbrich and Police Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, representing Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero.

Representatives from the Lottery Commission's own consultants—from casino investigator B2G Global Strategies and gaming consultant The Innovation Group—were also at the meeting yesterday.

The Lottery Commission has until June 19 to decide whether to grant an exclusive Saipan casino license and to whom.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider also listened for a few minutes at the presentation then left the conference room.

ZIPLINE

From Page 1

groups have already submitted proposals to lease public lands for a zipline in the Marpi area, specifically from Suicide Cliff all the way down to the Kan Pacific site.

He said if the ziplines materialize, Saipan could also market itself as an adventure destination.

Tenorio said DPL will meet with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Historic Preservation Office, Marianas Visitors Authority and other agencies about the proposed ziplines and cable cars.

"Then two other companies are interested in developing cable cars. One is in the Marpi area—from the radar station to the Suicide Cliff area. The other one is from Tapochau to the Sugar King Park," he said.

The planned Tapochau-Sugar King Park cable car had already been reported last year. That was the brainchild of designer Heinz Staffler and architect Herman Cabrera—to build a cable car that takes passengers from Sugar King Park in Garapan to the apex of Mount Tapochau in less than 10 minutes.

A cable car is a transportation system that typically travels up and down a mountain in which cabins are suspended on a continuous moving cable driven by a motor at one end of the route.

CHCC

From Page 2

as to why CMS would assume that there would be a citation effect by the resolution."

Dela Cruz echoed this, reiterating that the resolution was adopted in the sense of providing due process where it is due.

Although the board serves as an advisory body, trustees believe that they have "fundamental fiduciary responsibility" and credentialing is clearly identified in Public Law 16-51, which created the corporation and its board, according to them.

"We need to question what the process is and ask why we're not following the bylaws," added Mendiola-Long.

Saipan Tribune learned that CEO Muña informed the board last May 5 about the CMS concern. The board was told that "Mr. Arther just wanted to express CMS' concern with the resolution and how it is against their regulations."

The board, it was learned, was also made aware by Muña that "if the hospital does not follow its own laws in Public Law 16-51 and does not follow CMS regulations, CMS wanted it to be clear that CHC will never get recertified."

CMS is scheduled to decide on June 27 whether or not it will recertify its Medicare provider agreement with CHC.

JUDGE

From Page 1

were not a racial classification, it would be unconstitutional to deny non-NMDs the right to vote on Article 12 initiatives because the restriction is not narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling state purpose," Manglona said.

The judge issued the ruling in favor of John H. Davis Jr., a registered voter in the CNMI who, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, sued the Commonwealth Election Commission in his desire to vote on any initiative to amend Article 12.

Article 12 restricts the acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

A separate provision of the CNMI Constitution, Article 18 Section 5(c), prohibits qualified voters who are not NMDs from voting on Article 12 initiatives.

Davis is suing the Commonwealth Election Commission, CEC chair Frances M. Sablan, CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos for eight claims.

In her decision, Manglona said the constitutional protections of the 14th and 15th Amendments with respect to the right to vote on initiatives to modify or repeal land-alienation restrictions are applicable in the Commonwealth.

Manglona permanently prohibited the Commonwealth from enforcing Article 18, Section 5(c), and Public Law 17-40 and any CEC rules and regulations implementing that law that would prevent or hinder Davis and other qualified voters who are not NMDs from voting on Article 12 ballot initiatives.

In 2011, then-governor Benigno R. Fitial signed into law Public Law 17-40 that established the NMD Registry within the Commonwealth Election Commission and mandated the production of an official NMD identification card "that will be issued only to persons who are qualified under Article 12 Section 4 of the NMI Constitution."

Manglona said the Commonwealth may continue to maintain the NMD Registry and issue official NMD identification cards for purposes not associated with voting, but is permanently stopped from using the Registry and ID cards to qualify voters or to identify qualified voters at the polls.

Manglona ruled that Inos is not a proper party and dismissed him from the lawsuit.

Manglona allowed Davis 10 days from yesterday to submit in court his claim for attorney's fees and costs.

The judge directed the clerk to enter judgment for Davis on the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and seventh claims for relief, and for defendants on the sixth and eight claims for relief.

Manglona said the case remains open, pending disposition of Davis' request for fees and costs.

Davis' first four claims allege that Article 18, Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution and Public Law 17-40 violate his right to vote as secured by the 14th and 15th Amendments.

Davis' fifth claim is that these same two Commonwealth laws violate his federal statutory voting right. His seventh claim is against all defendants for deprivation of his civil rights.

In his sixth claim, Davis alleges that CEC executive director Guerrero, and CEC chair Sablan, acting in their official capacities, are applying discriminatory standards in determining his qualification to vote.

His eighth claim is a taxpayer action to stop the unlawful expenditure of public funds.

In September 2013, the House passed the Senate version of Legislative Initiative 18-I. The primary purpose of the initiative is to amend Article 12, Section 4 so that a U.S. citizen or national who has "at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood" will be "deemed a bona fide person of NMD for all purposes under Article 18. Voters will vote on this initiative on Nov. 4, 2014.

Two years ago, Davis also brought a court action, asking the court to declare that Article 18, Section 5(c) and its enabling laws deprive him of his right to vote as guaranteed by the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Manglona dismissed that lawsuit because it was not ripe—no Article 12 initiative had qualified for the ballot yet.

One such initiative has now cleared the Legislature and will be put before the voters this November.

Manglona said that, with only a few months remaining before an Article 12 initiative appears on the ballot, time is of the essence.

Davis needs to know whether he may vote, and supporters and opponents of the initiative need to know whether to expend resources to court his vote and the votes of other non-NMD citizens, Manglona said.

On Davis' taxpayer claim, Manglona said that Davis has made no showing of an injury to himself as a taxpayer as he alleges only the generalized grievance of all taxpayers when tax money is spent for an allegedly improper purpose.

Manglona said Davis therefore lacks standing to bring a taxpayer lawsuit in federal court.

Defendants deny that Article 18 Section 5 (c) violates the 15th Amendment. They assert that NMD is not is a racial classification, but a political one.

Manglona said the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that the 15th Amendment "establishes a national policy… not to be discriminated against as voters in elections to determine public governmental policies…"

Manglona said Article 12 initiatives are elections that "determine public governmental policies."

"Every Commonwealth citizen otherwise qualified to vote can claim a profound interest in the outcome of the ballot initiatives," she said.

Manglona said Article 12 ballot initiatives are not special limited-purpose elections, but general-interest elections in which all qualified voters have the right to participate.

Manglona said the exclusion of non-NMDs from voting on Article 12 risks perpetuating the sort of outdated and overbroad stereotypes about NMDs and non-NMDs that the equal protection clause is designed to combat.

Manglona said equal protection of the laws applies in the Commonwealth with respect to voting on Article 12 initiatives.

US military: Buildup will increase Guam's revenue

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— The relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, will boost Guam's revenue by at least $37 million a year, defense officials say.

That's enough to more than double the size of Guam's police force, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The money will come from income taxes paid by 5,000 Marines who will move to Guam, the Joint Guam Program Office said. The federal government remits service member income taxes to the territory in a lump sum each year.

Maj. Darren Alvarez, deputy director of Joint Guam Program Office-Forward, said this income tax revenue will peak at $62 million in 2021.

The grassroots organization We Are Guahan said the military isn't paying to help Guam cope with the effects of the buildup.

Attorney Leevin Camacho, of We Are Guahan, said income tax revenue from the Marines shouldn't be seen as mitigation for the social impacts.

If the buildup adversely impacts public schools, the local firefighting force, the local hospital, and other social service functions or entities, the Defense Department should pay for the impact of the buildup on those specific service providers, Camacho said.

Gov. Eddie Calvo's office said it's not accurate to say the Defense Department pays nothing for the social impacts of the buildup.

The Port Authority of Guam in 2010 received $50 million from the Defense Department, and it has started to use the money to upgrade its facilities to accommodate increased cargo.

Congress also has authorized $106 million for Guam Waterworks Authority, mostly for wastewater plant upgrades.

The military is paying for some road improvements. There also is $12 million for a cultural repository and $13 million for a public health lab.

23 Marianas plants and animals eyed for listing as threatened, endangered

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 23 species in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam are being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

About 14 are plants and nine are animals and 15 out of the 23 species being considered are located in the CNMI.

An endangered specie is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range while a threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered.

U.S. FWS deputy field supervisor Kristi Young said that the ESA outlines five criteria that they look at: threat to habitat; disease or predation; threatened by or subject to "over collection" such as utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or man-made factors affecting its survival.

When asked if there are any thresholds where one may consider species to be endangered or threatened, Young said: "There isn't really a threshold, it comes down to a lot of scientific analysis and professional judgment by the biologist that are looking at this."

U.S. FWS field supervisor Loyal A. Mehrhoff said the listing process for federally listed endangered and threatened species usually go through a four-way process but here in the CNMI they narrowed it down.

The listing will go through a published proposed rule, then a 60-day comment period, followed by a public meeting if it is requested, and then the final rule or if the rule is withdrawn.

"This rule actually becomes federal after we publish the proposed rule, then we announce to the public about the rule, we then get the feedback through the public or professionals as well," Mehrhoff said.

According to Young, protections vary between an animal and plant, but for an animal the prohibition is against taking "so it means you can't kill, collect, hunt and a whole other list of terms" to the animal.

According to Young, the purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend on.

Majority of the plants considered to be listed have no common names and are mostly called by their scientific name or Chamorro name.

Plants within the CNMI considered for listing under ESA are wild onion, fadang, *dendrobim guamense, Ufa-Halomtano, Maesa walkeri, nervilia jacksoniae, berenghenas halomtano, tabernaemontana rotensis*, and *tuberolabium guamense.*

Animals in the CNMI being considered for listing under ESA are the Pacific sheath-tailed bat, Slevin's skink, Mariana eight-spot butterfly, Rota damselfly, humped tree snail, Langford's tree snail, fragile tree snail, and the Mariana wandering butterfly.

According to Young, about 14 are currently listed under the ESA and are federally protected.

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OPA files charges vs Tinian Finance chief Shai

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has filed formal charges against Tinian Department of Finance resident director Edward Dela Cruz Shai in connection with his submission of alleged false travel documents in order to cash per diem checks for his personal use.

OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback charged the 50-year-old Shai on Monday with one count of theft by deception and one count of misconduct in public office.

At his arraignment on Monday, Shai, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, waived the reading of the charges and advisement of his constitutional rights. He pleaded not guilty.

» Defendant enters not guilty plea

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference for June 11, 2014.

Hasselback stated in the charging document that between May 30, 2011, and March 27, 2014, Shai repeatedly filed false or misleading travel documents with the Municipality of Tinian in order to receive authorization for travel to Saipan, ostensibly to conduct official business.

In reality, Hasselback said, Shai, on some occasions, returned early from these trips but did not return the "per diem" funds provided for the remainder of the duration of his trip.

On other occasions, Hasselback said, Shai would not even go on the trip but would remain on Tinian.

In any event, the OPA counsel said, Shai used his position within the Tinian Municipality to justify the provision of travel expenses that he was obligated to return but did not.

In total, Shai allegedly misappropriated more than $10,000 over a period of several years.

Police arrested Shai on Tinian on May 9. Last week, Judge Camacho allowed him to a post property bond and he was released to his wife, his third-party custodian.

OPA investigator Juanette F. David-Atalig stated in her report that Shai submitted a total of 47 travel authorizations from 2011 to 2014. She said almost all of these travel authorizations were to travel to Saipan, supposedly to meet with various government officials for department matters.

OPA learned that the officials, however, denied they ever met with Shai.

CHCC board: Over $40M CHC budget for 2015 is 'unrealistic'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The $41.5-million budget submission made by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for fiscal year 2015 was criticized Monday by its own board, who described the figure presented as unrealistic and based on wrong assumptions.

It was also learned that the CHCC budget request for next fiscal year was submitted in April to the Executive Branch without the board's go-signal. The board has even yet to discuss the proposed budget for 2015.

Board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz said he will ask lawmakers at the upcoming budget hearing at the Legislature to act against the budget's passage until the CHCC board has fully reviewed and approved the budget recommendation.

"It was submitted without the board review and concurrence pursuant to law. If the CEO expects us—the board—to go up at the Legislature and support that budget, it ain't gonna happen because I myself would recommend against its passage until such time that the board reviews it. That's my take," said Dela Cruz.

Philip Mendiola-Long also aired concerns, saying it's not true that CHCC would collect $30 million to $40 million for the year.

"From a finance standpoint, we're submitting a $40-million budget that's completely wrong!" he said. "There's no way we are collecting $30 million to $40 million in revenues…so why on earth are we presenting a budget that reflects that?" he asked the board.

He said CHCC's cash shortage each month is significant. "You know how much cash we're short every month? It's almost $1.6 million per month! The budget needs to be done on cash basis at this point…so we need to look into the numbers again," he added.

Mendiola-Long emphasized that pending all the pertinent records from CHCC management, the board cannot plan on how it could help the management seek the funding it needs to stay afloat.

The CHCC's budget submission of $41.5 million in April is inclusive of Tinian and Rota health centers.

In her April letter to the Office of Management and Budget, hospital CEO Esther Muña indicated that baselines for fiscal year 2015 are projected based on last fiscal year's collections, billed procedures, and pending claims from fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

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KHS' Elvin Quitugua joins National Honor Society

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An 18-year-old student of Kagman High School has been recently selected to join the prestigious ranks of the National Honor Society of High Schools.

Society officials has announced that 12th grader Elvin R. Quitugua is now accepted to the group, which recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community commitments.

Quitugua

"It was a great shock when I received the nomination letter in the mail! It was a great surprise and I am honored to have been selected to be a member of this prestigious national organization and to the amazing teachers and instructors who have recommended me to this society," said the 18-year-old scholar.

Quitugua is the son of Elbert Borja Quitugua and Jane Rodriguez Quitugua.

After high school, he plans to go to England, the United Kingdom, to pursue a bachelor degree and later obtain a master's degree in computer software development and information technology.

"I plan to take my skills and what I have learned back to the CNMI and create a service that will provide and hopefully benefit other businesses on island and use it to bring Chamorro awareness and learning into the 21st century," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Quitugua is currently a National Honor Society member at his school's chapter, served as a Youth Advisory Panel member, MyWAVE Club secretary, Junior Achievement company "Express It!" and member of the KHS' Dream Team that won second place in the Real World Design Challenge back in 2012, and various community service activities like the Chamorro Psycholinguitics Project.

According to NHSS president James Lewis, the vision of the society is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunity.

"We aim to help students like Elvin build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community," said the president.

The NSHHS was formed in 2002 and has more than 950,000 members throughout more than 160 countries. Membership to the group entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only events, publicity honors, and personalized recognition items.

Google photographing Saipan, Tinian, Rota

Google Maps, the desktop and mobile web mapping service application of Google, is on Saipan, Tinian and Rota through June 3, 2014, to conduct mapping and "Street Views" photography.

One mapper photographed Tinian on May 15-18 and will be on Rota on May 18-22, 2014. The other mapper has been working on Saipan. Both will be photographing 360-degree views of Saipan beginning on May 23. The Marianas Visitors Authority is urging all residents and businesses to spruce up their neighborhoods.

"Google Maps has finally made it to the Northern Mariana Islands for Street View mapping, and this is our opportunity to put our best foot forward," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "It may be years before these street scenes are filmed again, so we need to make every effort *now* to clean up and present our best. Everyone from building owners to students at bus stops can help by painting, picking up trash, and taking pride in our neighborhoods."

Google Maps offers satellite imagery, street maps, and Street View perspectives, among other services. The mapping team will be on Saipan's west side on May 27-28, the east side on May 29-30, the south side on June 1, and the north side on June 3. ***(MVA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Zayden Camacho Nekaifes! May your wishes come true and may you have many more birthdays to come. Let the sun shine down on you and may God bless you! Greetings come from Mommy, Grandma, brothers, sisters, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

31st Agricultural Fair this Saturday

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The 31st Agricultural Fair is happening this Saturday, May 24, at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Saipan Agricultural Fair Association president Ramon B. Camacho is encouraging not just commercial farmers but also small-scale ones to participate in this year's event.

"We encourage not only commercial farmers but those who have their backyard farms or those who have small plantations of fruits and vegetables to showcase their locally grown produce to the island," Camacho said.

On Saturday, the livestock and agricultural produce competition will start at 6am.

"They will be judging on the best plants and animals during the fair," Camacho said.

Three judges would evaluate the animals while another three will judge the plants, he added.

At 10am the tabulation of all points will ensue followed by the announcement of winners in the afternoon.

The raffle drawings will start at 12pm.

Camacho said that raffle tickets are $5 each and will continue to sell until the event actually starts on Saturday.

"There will also be lots of activities for the people to enjoy," Camacho said.

One of the fair's highlights is the "greasy pig" competition. Camacho said that children from ages 7 to 12 can join the activity and attempt to catch a pig in a caged area. The one who captures it gets to keep it.

According to Camacho, only five pigs will be used for the activity and the entrance fee is $2.

Aside from the scheduled activities, vendors of the Sabalu Farmers Market will also be selling produce at the fair. The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services will also be putting up demonstrations.

Camacho noted that there are still spaces available for those who want to showcase their produce or provide services at the fair. Spaces of about 10x10 cost $100 while the 10x20 spaces cost $150.

"We want to encourage local produce and have more local consumers to visit the fair," Camacho said.

Article 12 on John Gonzales show

The *John Gonzales LIVE* show today will discuss Article 12: Land alienation to persons of Northern Marianas descent. Guest speakers are Lino Olopai, Lorenzo "Larry" DLG. Cabrera, Alvaro A. Santos, and Felicidad T. Ogumoro.

It will air live on TV Channel 14, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, with replays on Monday, May 26, and Tuesday, May 27.

The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

To participate in the discussion, contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call 287-9413; or text: 285-META (6382). ***(PR)***

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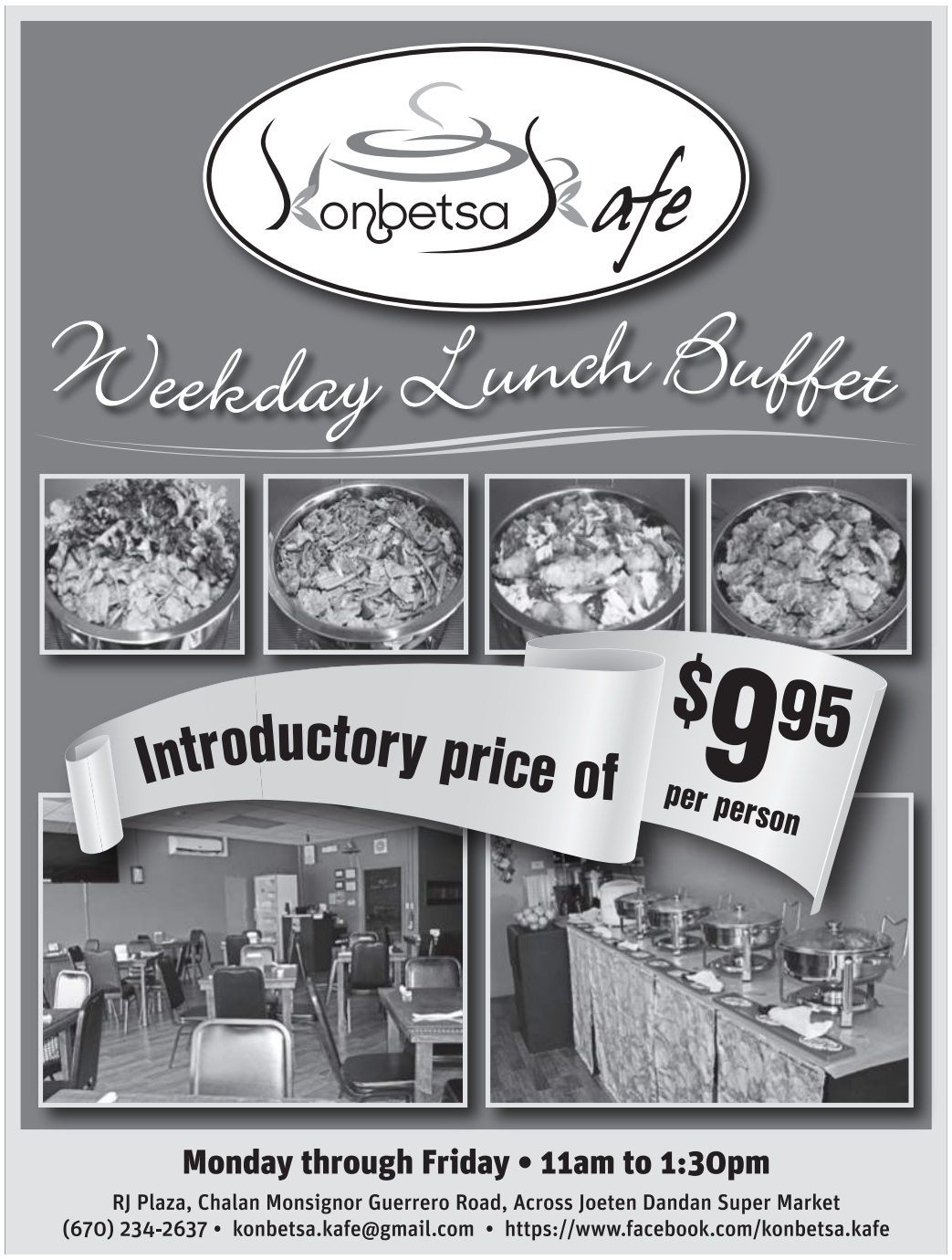
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Humanities Council elects new officers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council elected a new slate of officers during its quarterly meeting last week.

Robert H. Hunter, Frankie M. Eliptico, and Joann T. Aquino were the board's unanimous choices for the positions of chair, vice chair, and secretary/treasurer respectively.

The trio replaces outgoing chair David J. Attao, vice chair Tracy M. Guerrero, and secretary/treasurer Rose T. Ada-Hocog. All three had held their offices for the past two years

Hunter, who was elected to the board in 2011, is the executive director of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture. Before being tapped to lead the council, Hunter served two years as chairman of its Program Committee.

Hunter

Eliptico

Aquino

Eliptico, director of external relations at Northern Marianas College, was appointed to the board by Gov. Eloy S. Inos is 2013. He brings a strong background in fundraising and has been a key member of the Council's Development Committee over the past year.

Aquino, a veteran board member who joined the board in 2009, is operations coordinator at the Saipan Mayor's Office. She has served on a variety of council committees during her tenure and held the position of secretary/treasurer previously.

In addition to electing officers, the board also adopted its annual audit report and fundraising plan, acted on community grant applications, and approved new council projects.

The Humanities Council is a private, 501c3 organization established in 1991. It is also eligible to receive tax deductible donations under the Educational Tax Credit program.

To learn more about the Council and its programs, visits its website at northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Water outage on Upper Navy Hill

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform residents of Upper Navy Hill and along Isla Drive that their water service may be periodically interrupted between 9am and 4:30pm to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC, to replace non-working gate valves located along the Upper Navy Hill area.

This gate valve replacement will take place starting May 19, 2014, and CUC estimates the work to be completed within two to three weeks. GPPC will replace the valves systematically so that smaller areas will be affected as they work their way up around the Upper Navy Hill.

This valve replacement is part of the Navy Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC's operations team and GPPC will be working hard to return service to customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to project manager Larry Manacop, at (670) 236-4332. ***(CUC)***

PIC donates $5K to Koblerville school

Pacific Islands Club has donated $ 5,000 worth of educational tax credit to Koblerville Elementary School. The donation will be used to build the walkway between buildings C and D to protect the students from the rain during rainy season. Some of the funds will also be used to teach students about promoting the tourism industry in the Commonwealth.

Koblerville Elementary School has an active My Wave Club that helps promote the tourism industry. The school works closely with nearby hotels like Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Point in providing the community with meaningful activities that benefit both the tourism industry and the education of children.

"On behalf of Koblerville Elementary School students, parents, teachers, and school administrators, our sincere appreciation to Pacific Islands Club for providing our school with financial resource to improve the education of our children in the CNMI," the school said in a statement. ***(PR)***

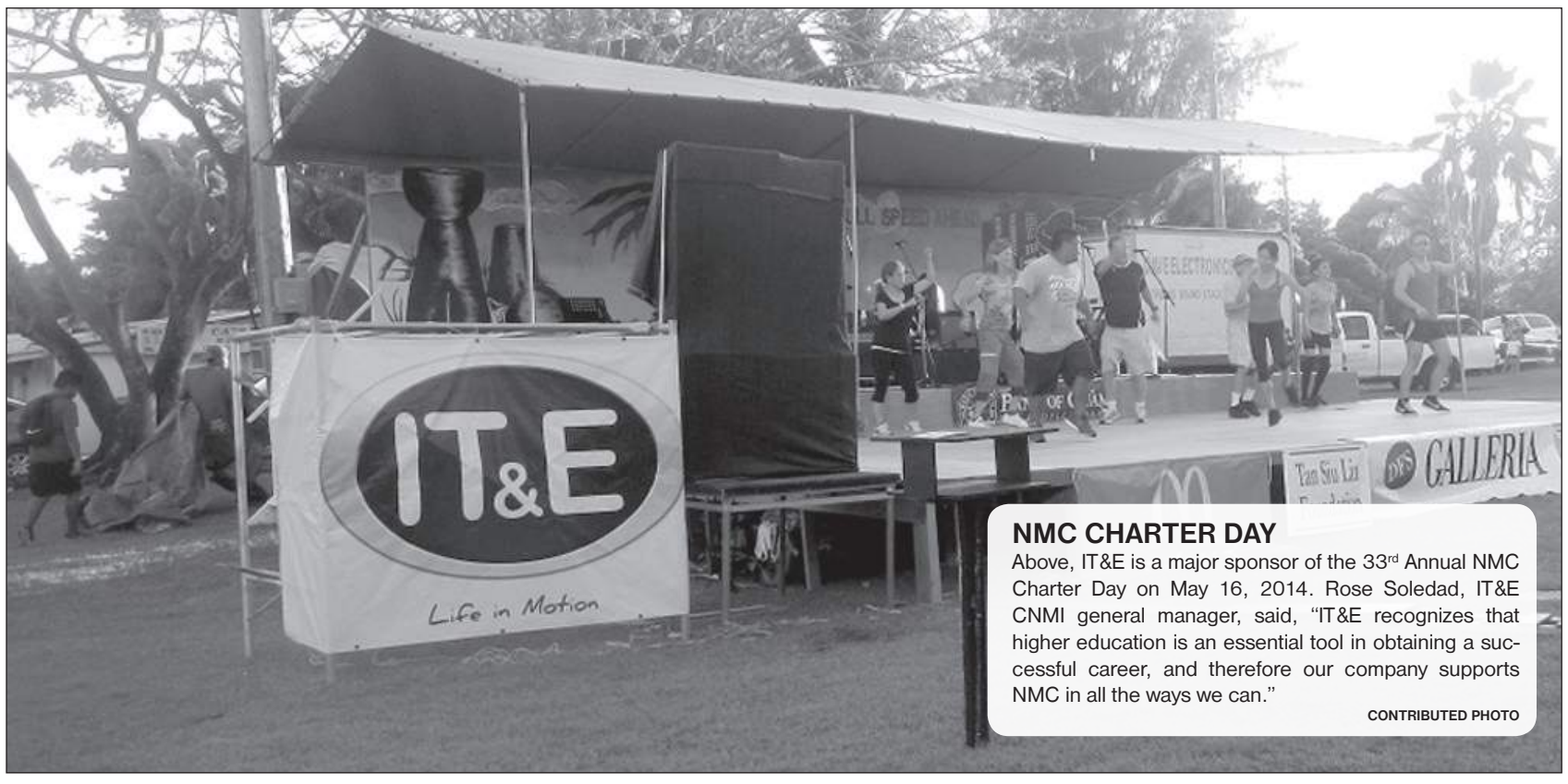
CNMI closer to doubled matching fund waiver for Army Corps projects

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) provision in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act that U.S. House and Senate conferees negotiated for months remains intact, ensuring that the waiver of the local match requirement for Army Corps of Engineers projects in the CNMI will double from the current $200,000 to $400,000.

"This will increase the current $200,000 waiver, set in 1986, to reflect inflation over the last 28 years. The new waiver amount will mean more federal funds invested in the Northern Mariana Islands and Commonwealth money can be used for other priorities," Sablan said.

Seven years had passed since the last water resources bill was enacted. Once both the House and the Senate vote to approve the negotiated bill, it will head to the President for his signature.

Some of the recent Army Corps projects in the CNMI include the Rota Harbor improvements completed in 2008, and the Susupe-Chalan Kanoa Drainage Plan to address flooding in those villages. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***



NMC CHARTER DAY

Above, IT&E is a major sponsor of the 33rd Annual NMC Charter Day on May 16, 2014. Rose Soledad, IT&E CNMI general manager, said, "IT&E recognizes that higher education is an essential tool in obtaining a successful career, and therefore our company supports NMC in all the ways we can."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inos appoints 2 to CPA, CSC

Gov. Eloy S. Inos re-appointed Barry C. Toves to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Rota, and nominated David S. Atalig to the Civil Service Commission also to represent Rota.

Both appointments require the Senate's advice and consent. If Toves is confirmed by the Senate, he will serve another four-year term, which will expire on May 14, 2018.

Atalig, if confirmed, will serve a six-year term starting on the date of his confirmation.

The governor said he's confident that Toves will continue to devote his time and efforts on the CPA board. He's also confident that Atalig will be an asset on the Civil Service Commission.

Both appointees are required to provide copies of their resume, statement of financial interest, drug test receipt and drug test results. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

MUÑA

From Page 4

CUC had threatened to disconnect the hospital's non-essential services if the CHCC fails to pay its monthly bill in full by June 30. The hospital's average monthly power consumption is $539,000.

"This is an issue that is severe, that puts the lives of our patients in immediate jeopardy and also on [Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services] compliance issues as well as public health grant issues. Understanding that there may be other issues the CEO and her staff are working on which are also important, I would have hoped the CEO will recognize how important is the issue with CUC and entertain us to walk through the plan and how we can help," Mendiola-Long said.

Also of extreme concern is the lack of cash flow report and organization planning, which he tied in to the Marianas Public Land Trust line of credit. Drawdown of the MPLT funds hinges on the hiring of a permanent CFO, which has been vacant for two years.

From his initial viewing of current CHCC cash flow, Mendiola-Long said that CHCC is faced with the possibility of not meeting payroll.

"I have no problem going before the Legislature and the governor [to ask for money]. However, we need something [to show them], a plan," he said.

He also questioned the lack of report on the payment settlement with CMS pertaining to prior year reimbursement amounting to approximately $800,000.

"We were assured that this is coming through…but up until today, it's not coming through. There was no explanation to the board on what's the problem with the delay," he added.

Without this expected "settlement funds" from CMS and the unavailability of the MPLT line of credit, cash flow is expected to be impacted.

Accrual of a significant amount of overtime costs in many departments was also a concern as well as updates on recruitment for vital positions like nurses.

Mendiola-Long also scored Muña's failure to account for what is happening with the collection agency it contracted in Guam. He said no reports were provided to the board despite requests.

Also cited was the lack of report or action on the board resolution about credentialing staff.

In failing to provide at least one of the 10 reports being requested by the board, Mendiola-Long said: "It makes me think that this is either inefficient or incapability or just not respecting the authority of the board."

Vice chair Dela Cruz and Rios echoed Mendiola-Long's sentiments and expressed hope that Muña will now start working with the board.

"The reason I moved the board to adopt the no-confidence vote is to [make it] serve as a warning…that we mean business here," said Dela Cruz.

Raho said he cannot support the no-confidence vote as he recognized the valuable work Muña is doing for the organization. Instead of the vote of no-confidence, he tried to persuade colleagues to wait for the CEO's evaluation and from there a decision can be made.

Raho also pointed out that, as an advisory body, the board cannot force the CEO to take its advice if she doesn't want to.

The vote of no-confidence, he added, will also send the wrong message to federal partners. He asked for a contingency plan in the event something comes up and the CEO position becomes vacant.

After the vote, Mendiola-Long later asked for the board to contact recruitment firms to come up with a pool of candidates in the event the CEO position suddenly becomes vacant.

Saipan native commissioned as Army officer

LEXINGTON, MO—In an evening ceremony on the campus of Wentworth Military College, 15 cadets received their commissions as Army officers on May 16, 2014. A separate commissioning ceremony was conducted for one Missouri Valley College ROTC cadet on May 10, 2014.

Among the 16 cadets is Saipan-born Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Infantry, who was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

These newly appointed second lieutenants have spent the last two to four years in the traditional four-year Advanced ROTC Program and the Early Commissioning Program (ECP; an officer-producing program exclusive to Wentworth Military College and four other military junior colleges across the United States). Upon commissioning, the ECP-generated officers will serve two years in the Army National Guard or Army Reserves while they complete their bachelor's degree at a college or university of their choice. The new second lieutenant that graduated from Missouri Valley College will begin his career on active duty as an aviation officer following his completion of the Basic Officer Leader Course at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wentworth Military College recently commissioned 16 cadets as Army officers. Among them is Saipan-born Edward Dela Cruz Jr., who was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Many of the ECP-generated second lieutenants will serve as platoon leaders or play key roles in a battalion staff while they complete their undergraduate degrees after which they may elect to serve on active duty.

Aside from Dela Cruz J, the other newly commissioned second lieutenants are: 2Lt. Kyle Christiansen, Quartermaster, Ripon, California; 2Lt. Ricardo Gonzales, Ordnance, Pago Pago, American Samoa; 2Lt. Austin Hale, Transportation, Mission, Kansas; 2Lt. David Hernandez, Engineer, Hudson, Wisconsin; 2Lt. Blaise Hooper, Quartermaster, Olathe, Kansas; 2Lt. Joshua Julien, Quartermaster, McDonald, Georgia; 2Lt. Samuel Kolkow, Engineer, Huntsville, Utah; 2Lt. Joshua Lundy, Singal Corps, Norwalk, Iowa; 2Lt. Emmanuel Nyarko, Signal Corps, of Newark, New Jersey; 2Lt. Mickey Shelton, Military Police, Rutledge, Tennessee; 2Lt. Eugene Stayt, Ordnance, Dongucheon, South Korea; 2Lt. Ryan Todd, Infantry, Roseburg, Oregon; 2Lt. Damien Watkins, Aviation, Camp Verde, Arizona; 2Lt. David Williams, Field Artillery, Chicago, Illinois; and 2Lt. Taylor Wolf, Ordnance, Big Bend, Wisconsin.

Commissioning as an Army officer is the culminating event for an ROTC cadet. America bestows special trust and confidence in these newly commissioned officers and entrusts them with the welfare of America's most precious resource, its sons and daughters. More importantly, each of these new commissioned officers swears an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. ***(PR)***

CNMI readies for full-scale Exercise KONFITMA

The U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team/CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package Training and Readiness Division, in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the CNMI response community, will be conducting a 36-hour all-hazard Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive Situational Training Exercise.

Exercise "KONFITMA" is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, to Wednesday, May 28, 2014.

The full-scale exercise will serve as an interagency, multi-CST STX on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to maintain operational response procedures during an incident of national significance in order to create conditions to reinforce interoperability among the state and local stakeholders. The exercise will take place at various locations throughout the CNMI: in Garapan, Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan Southern High School, Garapan Elementary School, Civic Center, Garapan Fishing Base, Managaha Island, Tanapag Lagoon, Kannat Tabla, As Gonno, Kagman II, San Roque, Marpi, Ports of Saipan (airport and seaport), Rota Health Center, Tinian Junior High School, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

To ensure the safety of the community, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office and partner agencies ask that the general public take extra precautionary measures when near any of the various exercise locations. Should you have any question contact the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management at 664-2216 or the CNMI Emergency Operation Center Dispatch at 237-8000. ***(Office of the Governor)***

COTA sets outreach, public hearings

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority and the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board, Office of the Governor, will be conducting community outreach activities and public hearings. The purpose of the outreach and public hearings is to educate veterans, military personnel, and their families about COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information, Resource & Referral Service Center and to present and hear comments on COTA's Five-Year Program of Projects. The date, time, and place are as follows:

Island	Location	Date	Day/Time
Rota	Community Center, Sinapalo	5/19/2014	Monday, 6pm
Rota	Mayor's Conference Room	5/20/2014	Tuesday, 6pm
Tinian	Tinian Public Library	5/21/2014	Wednesday, 6pm
Saipan	Kagman Community Center	5/22/2014	Thursday, 6pm

For more information, call COTA at 664-2682 (COTA) or email at cota@gov.mp. ***(PR)***

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its Government and Business customer's that current billing of accounts are due on or before Friday, **May 30, 2014**. Payments not received by close of business on May 30 will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Friday, **May 30.** Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Friday, **May 30**. Customers must pay any amount **NOT IN DISPUTE** to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **May 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **May 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **May 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
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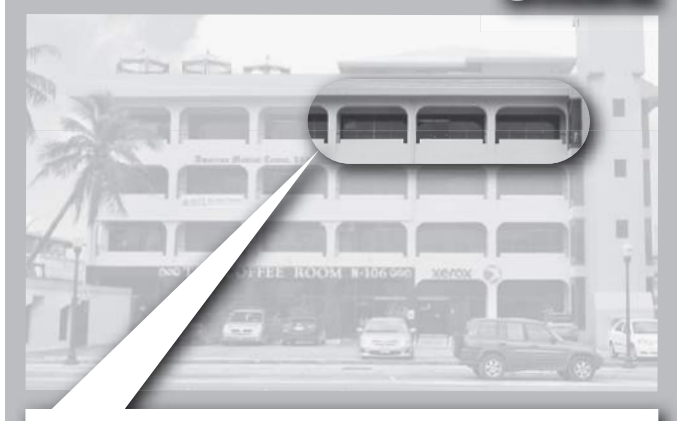
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

APARTMENT for SALE



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$150,000⁰⁰

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Staying true to Net neutrality

Chairman Tom Wheeler of the Federal Communications Commission said all the right things about Net neutrality Thursday as the agency voted to release draft rules for preserving the open Internet. Nevertheless, real questions remain about whether the proposal he's championed is the right way to protect the Internet's reach, connectivity and innovative spirit. Perhaps that's why the commission provided an unusually long time for the public to comment on Wheeler's proposal and possible alternatives. It's a reminder that, despite the near-hysteria drummed up by some Net neutrality advocates, we're still at the start of the rule-making process, not the end.

At issue is whether and how the government should try to stop certain Internet service providers—companies such as AT&T, Verizon and Time-Warner Cable that connect individual users to the Net—from favoring some sites and services over others. The fear is that ISPs would sell high-priority delivery to deep-pocketed companies, enabling their content to look and perform better at the expense of everyone else's. Although the FCC has been saying for a decade that broadband access service should be free from such interference, the courts have twice rejected its rules and enforcement efforts. There are no neutrality rules in force today, just antitrust and consumer protection laws to deter ISPs from tilting the online playing field.

Wheeler has proposed taking a case-by-case approach that would forbid ISPs from striking "commercially unreasonable" deals with sites and services that want to pay for premium access to Internet users. Critics on the left say his approach would lead to a "two-tiered" Internet with fast lanes for big companies and slow lanes for start-ups and innovators, while those on the right say it's a solution in search of a problem. The proposal is moving ahead in part because of language Wheeler added to clarify the sorts of deals ISPs would be barred from making, providing more assurance that consumers and content providers wouldn't face slowdowns, and giving more weight to a stringent regulatory alternative favored by many neutrality advocates.

Before Thursday's vote, Wheeler emphatically declared his opposition to a two-tiered Internet. "There is one Internet. It must be fast, it must be robust, and it must be open," he said, adding, "The prospect of a gatekeeper choosing winners and losers on the Internet is unacceptable." He's right about all that, yet good intentions don't count for much. The commission needs to show that whatever rules it adopts will actually promote innovation and investment, set clear guidelines for ISPs that won't shift with the political winds, and have a solid basis in law. Wheeler's statements raise the hope that the new rules will meet those tests. But the scrutiny is just starting.

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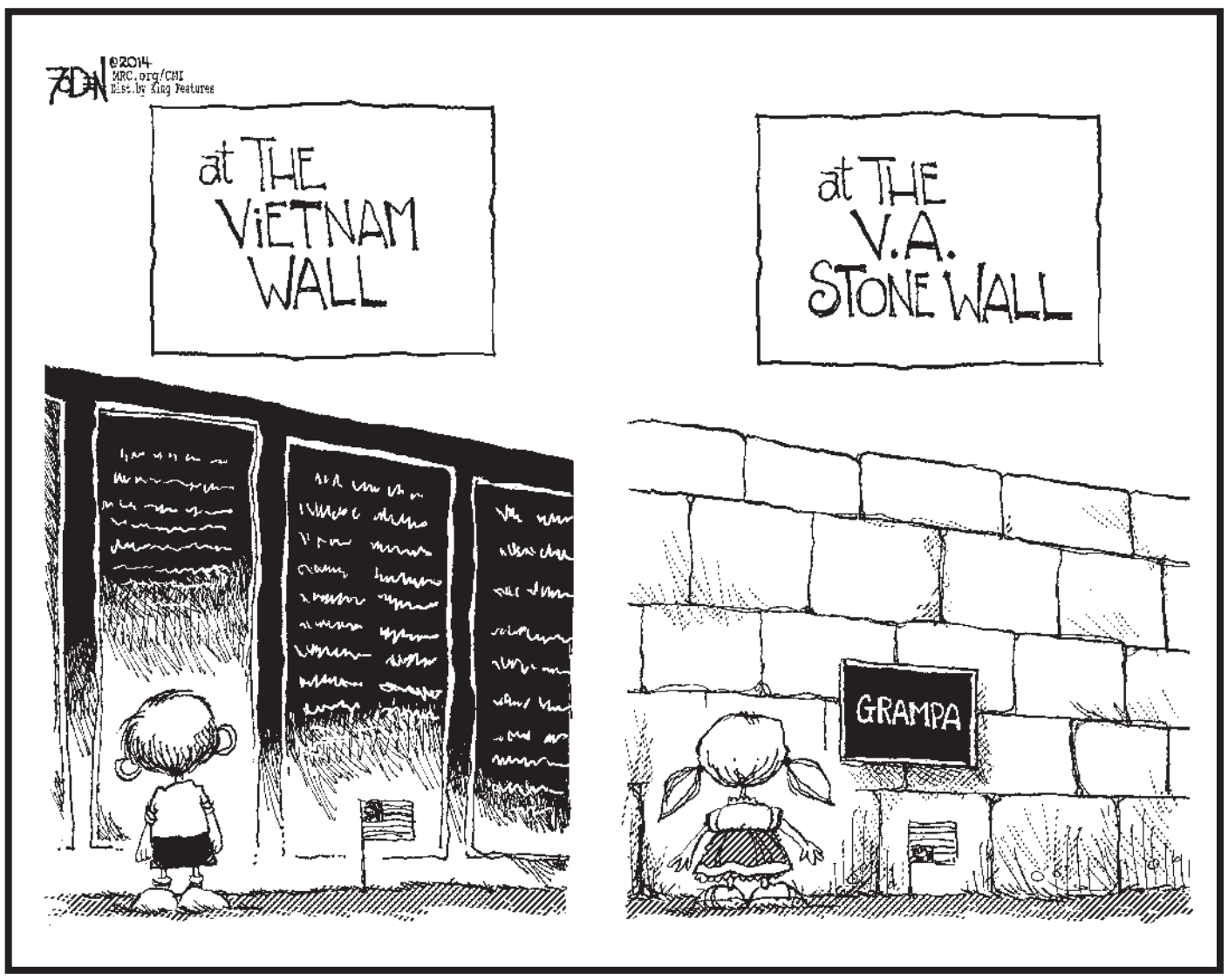


Tsonggo Zhongguo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The first word in our title is our childhood playground word for "monkey," the second is the name formally used for "China": *Zhong* = middle, *Guo* = realm. The first was used as an insult. Both share similar pronunciations. I was too young to notice the racist nature of the slur of the first word until later when I discovered that the Malay word "monkey" *(unggoy)* is not even close to the one we were using. *Tsonggo* was definitely pejorative against the Chinese! The prejudice was deep. "What are you? *Intsik* (Chinese)?" was mother's common comment when we were not in proper attire or behavior.

The recent anti-Chinese riots in Vietnam, triggered by the Vietnamese government's protests in the continuing oil drilling by China on Xisha Island, abetted by our meddling in the affair by declaring the Chinese oil drilling move as "destabilizing," has revealed dormant currents in the area bigger than "sovereignty" issues between countries surrounding the disputed islands in the South China Sea (now labeled the Luzon Sea in the Penguin 2012 World Map edition).

The rioting last week was more far south of Hanoi, touching on the whole of Sinophobe Vietnam; business casualties (China mainlanders, Taiwanese, and Korean) sent foreign personnel scampering out of the country with many Chinese nationals crossing into Kampuchea; tour operators cancelled advertised visits to Vietnam, adding to Vietnam's already battered economy.

Our reflection is not on China-Vietnam relationship for that is a close but strained one (Vietnam in Chinese is Yuenan, next to the southern Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Hainan, get the picture?) since the Han began a millennial-long Chinese reign by the Gulf of Tonkin before the local royalty took over, lasting another millennium until the French took interest in Indochina, along with European powers who carved out the region. Uncle Sam was a grease-hand Johnny-come-lately, sights on the South China Sea oil. Ho Chi Minh had no shortage of targets for his cross hairs.

It is the anti-Chinese phenomenon in the region that got triggered in Vietnam as China's presence in the region and around the world becomes more prominent. We are familiar with the genocidal Sino phobia of Indonesia after WWII. Malaysia fared better but not by much, Singapore's strength has the Sinophobe impulse to thank for. The Chinese in the Philippines were ghettoed by the Spaniards, keeping Binondo across the Pasig to the Walled City of Intramuros at bay, forcing those who wish to be integrated to intermarry or forsake their Chinese names (Cojuangco, remember?).

Thailand is experiencing a racial divide as the Shinawatra brother-sister tandem represent the Sino face of Siam, accused of not respecting the monarchy that supports the revolt of the middle income and Malay "yellow shirts" against the "reds" whose north and northwest of Bangkok stronghold is empathetically close to Sino neighbors.

We need not detail historic Sino phobia around the world. Google the subject and one gets more than a page of gore. The "yellow terror" aka "yellow peril" as a media term accompanied the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, not yet 20 years after Chinese labor completed the rail into the Pacific. A labor leader is oft-quoted with a common view at the time, that "the superior whites had to exclude the inferior Asiatics, by law, or if necessary, by force of arms." In the early 1900s, vigilante groups lynched Asians, much like blacks in the South. Hearst papers deliberately used "yellow peril" to refer to Asian Americans. The NY Times caricatured Filipinos as monkeys!

Boka Haram of Nigeria (Boka Haram means "anti-Western education," thus the protest against girls in school) recently turned its sights on Chinese workers in the north corner of Cameroon bordering Nigeria, kidnapping 10 Chinese workers working in a state-supported infrastructure project.

It is not, however, solely a one-way street. Since Qin's Shi Huang Di connected existing walls to protect the Hans from northern marauders that later made into the Great Wall, there has not been a shortage of the dynastic conduct of racial superiority characterizing the middle kingdom.

A recent survey shows that the Chinese public least trust Japan (wokau, the term for "bandit," is still used to call Japanese citizens); followed by the Philippines that botched a rescue operation of HK tourists in Manila and refuses to apologize for it, let alone its legal anti-Chinese statutes; with the U.S. at third whose Immigration curtailed southern European and Asian migrants, and since Obama made his pivot turn from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Far East, to "contain" China if one reads why the military is entrenched in the CNMI; followed by Vietnam where evacuation of affected Chinese workers continues; and India, its rival for influence in Xizang, where the Dalai Lama is protected in exile.

Tsonggo Zhongguo will be here awhile, and with China leading the world in trade in a heightened profile as a national economy, the poor primates in the wild will get their undeserved share of insults!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SG: Misunderstood concept

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

For 36 years we've asserted our favorite spout of our rights to "self-government" while hypnogogic, meaning staggering to the bathroom half asleep, disoriented while second-guessing our steps. Well, here we are today heavily saddled with bankruptcy! I'm not sure that driving every agency into the ditch of insolvency is our aspiration of self-government.

For months, I've sought for definition—from the prism of the indigenous warriors—what we stand for on substantive issues. It would have to be something meaningful beyond the corrupting effects of politics. And we all must proactively partake on issues pertaining to our livelihood to keep the guys and gals on their feet.

Isn't it imperative that a framework of issues is organized for now is the time to instill good governance responsibly? What does this entail?

It begins with educating our people about the importance of citizenship responsibility. This approach should open up opportunities for civil discussion and understanding what may have gone right or otherwise over the last three decades. Lest this is done, our canoe would continue drifting heedlessly in troubled waters!

Is disorientation a forte?

If a certain sector is true to its commitment to keeping local control of government affairs in the hands of the indigenous people, has it done its homework on this score? For instance, why the rally behind casino that would mean 5,000-plus more foreign workers here? There's the humiliating inconsistency of words versus deeds.

In other words, there's the lack of resolve to stick to a chosen agenda. We threaten to close the front door while slamming wide open the back door! Thus the scattershot approach piling into heaps of confusion rather than fostering clarity and understanding.

Assuming we secure the much touted $30 million to help retirees. Doesn't the Fund require $50 million annually to pay for its obligations? What happens after two years? It seems it's one more try at the disappointing forte of "advancing to the rear."

Was due diligence done on this issue? Did pro-casino troops know that Atlantic City saw its revenue drop by 45 percent last year? Did they know that other states have failed generating the projected revenues promoted by industry executives in concert with corrupt politicians?

Who among so-called leadership received "grease money" and wouldn't the compromise of integrity change the political landscape here for a long time? Would not this industry sacrifice the lower-income folks so wealthy casino executives could haul their loot from the poor?

Have we quietly joined the ranks that have seen fit to turn this tiny community to roll out the red carpet of cultural genocide?

Meanwhile, legislators ventured proposing a new political status commission. It was vetoed. Rep. Trenton Connor spouted he's "not in conformance" with the governor's action. Fine. How about conformity to the permanency of the agreement? It's in the document in plain simple language, too, sir! What would we accomplish and would the U.S. come to the table?

Have we done anything to help the underemployed meet the vicious challenges in the 20-percent increase in the cost of living?

Did we probe why 90 percent of freshmen flunked the entrance exam at NMC this year? Must not there be serious review of this issue to help students secure acquisition of skills that begins with fully grounded high school foundation?

What about the seriously deteriorating health of the indigenous people? Isn't it true that Obamacare has displaced many of our people who pulled out from their health policies? Why is leadership so apathetic providing the requisite funds for hospital operations? Like it or not, health isn't only the most important ticket item but equally expensive no matter how you dice or splice it. Deal with it on a realistic basis!

Thorny Article 12

The land alienation (Article 12) issue is stuck in the filthy swamp of heedless discussion, moving in and out of ethnicity versus sale. There's a need to put it into context so it is clearly explained and hopefully understood by NMDs. It's land sale versus protecting tradition: Which one do we dump first?

Have you listened to Marianas scholars on this issue, many of whom are saying retain Article 12 in the interest of island nation building and, most importantly, tradition? This view embraces a vision that merits further discussion. I could see where they're coming from and trust they'd come around to sharing their educated views of the future of the indigenous people. They refer to these isles as "home," not just another place in the sun.

Something's got to give

Do we acknowledge with complete abandon the deepening economic and fiscal mess so our famous Wagon of Bankruptcy careens heedlessly into complete fiscal insolvency?

Or do we regroup so we take back what's ours in order to begin rebuilding the bridge of hope for our children?

It's irresponsible to give in to complacency. It's time to uproot the corrupt from government in order to get back what's ours. It'll give us the opportunity to remap the future for our children.

Persistent financial crisis

I've done two major career cuts in both sectors: 1) As head of the *Saipan Tribune* and 2) secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

After nine months, I saved the parent company some $20K in monthly subsidy. At DPL the desk audit forced major salary adjustments based strictly on credentials and qualifications. We saved the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars!

In either case, employees must learn to earn their dues! It instills integrity and professional development! It leads to better paying jobs up ahead.

Democratic Party of NMI defends Article 12

Editor's Note: The following is a statement issued by the Democratic Party of the NMI, Inc.

People who are of Northern Marianas descent will face yet another attempt by a few, but very determined locally well-connected private chief executive officers, to tamper with our culturally and constitutionally protected Article 12. These groups of people, largely members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, are hell bent on wanting to change the restrictions on alienation of land reserved exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent. While previous attempts to abolish said article have failed, this time around they have concocted a very clever plan to language their initiative petition in a way that would likely confuse or possibly deceive our voting NMDs. Consider seriously the proposed language contained in the initiative petition, "To amend Article 12 in the CNMI Constitution to remove the mandatory restrictions on the alienation of land, and allow land owners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land." What an inventive, shrewd, and tricky way to phrase it.

"Allowing land owners to elect to restrict the alienation of their own land" sounds perfectly harmless and perhaps may very well be acceptable to most ordinary NMDs. However, taken in its totality, including the preceding sentence of the petition heading, it is undeniably an attempt to linguistically mislead and deceit voters. The petition was intentionally languaged in a way that would provide some degree of probability not only to confuse voters but to try and secure the full support of our NMDs.

As candidate for governor, lt. governor, delegate to Congress, Saipan mayor, Senate and House representatives under the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, Inc., and as members of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., we officially state that we are vehemently opposed to any attempt, by anyone, to change, amend or remove the mandatory restrictions on land alienation on Article 12 of our Constitution. Until such time that the unanimous consent of our NMDs is democratically expressed to eliminate or repeal Article 12, our position on such an important cultural matter will steadfastly remain the same. Furthermore, it is our content that the issue about land in Article 12 was never considered in the context of economic application but more clearly and purposefully on cultural and traditional argument and justification.

For non-Chamorros/Carolinians and few NMD people and land owners, they might consider land as something they own, a commodity to be bought and sold, as asset to make profit from, but also a means to make a living off it or simply "home." For Chamorro/Carolinian people the relationship is much deeper. The land owns Chamorro and Carolinian and every aspect of our lives is connected to it. We have a profound traditional connection to land. Our tradition and custom are intertwined with land, our people and way of life, and this forms our culture and sovereignty. Chamorros and Carolinians cultivate their land, but in a way different from others. We endeavor to live with the land; others seemed to live off it. The latter fits perfectly well with the whole intent of those pushing for changing Article 12. While we differ in our intent we respect their position.

A minority of NMDs and Saipan Chamber of Commerce members may consider it to be materially insignificant, but for those of us who are still clinging to our traditional and cultural heritage and values, it is fundamentally a part of our identity and who we really are as a people. Even the U.S. negotiating members of the political status team were sensitively cognizant of the importance of land to the indigenous, its vulnerability for exploitation that they expressly acquiesced to not making the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applicable, which was congressionally approved. Because the United States recognizes and respects the special importance of land to Chamorro and Carolinian people, it was repeatedly emphasized in Section 805 and 806 of the Covenant.

Chamorros and Carolinians who are of Northern Marianas descent are not yet ready to surrender their cultural integrity for the economic enrichment of non-NMDs. This is a case we will continue to fight on behalf of our people. Not only do we believe in the inviolability of Article 12, we are duty-bound and morally obligated to support and defend it to the best of our abilities.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The public's right to know

A recent online poll in one of our local papers asked this question: Should the statements of financial interest of public officials be made public?

Yes.

Public officials make decisions that affect the financial interest of all of us. So it is only right that we should all know how those decisions affect the pocketbooks of public officials.

Open disclosure will not stop officials from making decisions based on their own financial self-interest. But at least we will be able to see it.

I have heard it said that financial disclosure is a violation of the right to privacy. So I did some research. I learned that the courts have generally not seen any constitutional right to privacy when it comes to the finances of public officials.

In fact, there are some 30,000 people in the federal government who are required by law to file public financial disclosure reports. These officials are in all three branches of government—the legislative, executive, and judicial. And I am one.

We have to disclose detailed information concerning our income, any gifts we receive, reimbursements from private non-governmental sources, as well as information on financial holdings and transactions in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real property. We also have to disclose any agreement for future employment.

And we have to file this information not just for ourselves, but also for our spouses and dependent children.

We file these financial reports on an annual basis, detailing information for the previous year. But we also have to file a report within 45 days, whenever we make a transaction worth over $1,000.

The public and the press can see these reports and download them from the Internet for the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, Cabinet officials, and heads of executive branch and independent agencies. Reports for lower level employees are available for public inspection at the employee's agency.

The Ethics in Government Act, requiring financial disclosure and reporting, was enacted in 1978. So there has been plenty of time for legal challenges. But the courts have made clear that requiring public officials to disclose their finances does not violate their constitutional right to privacy.

Here in the Commonwealth our laws already require that some public officials file financial disclosures with the Office of the Public Auditor. But the disclosures are kept confidential to the public.

So we need to go farther. Our Legislature could expand the law to require that those disclosures be made public, posted on the Internet even, where we could all see them, and to require that they include information about spouses and dependent children, too.

That change would not be groundbreaking compared to the federal requirements. But it would make a huge statement about our own Legislature's respect for the people of our Commonwealth and for our right to know.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

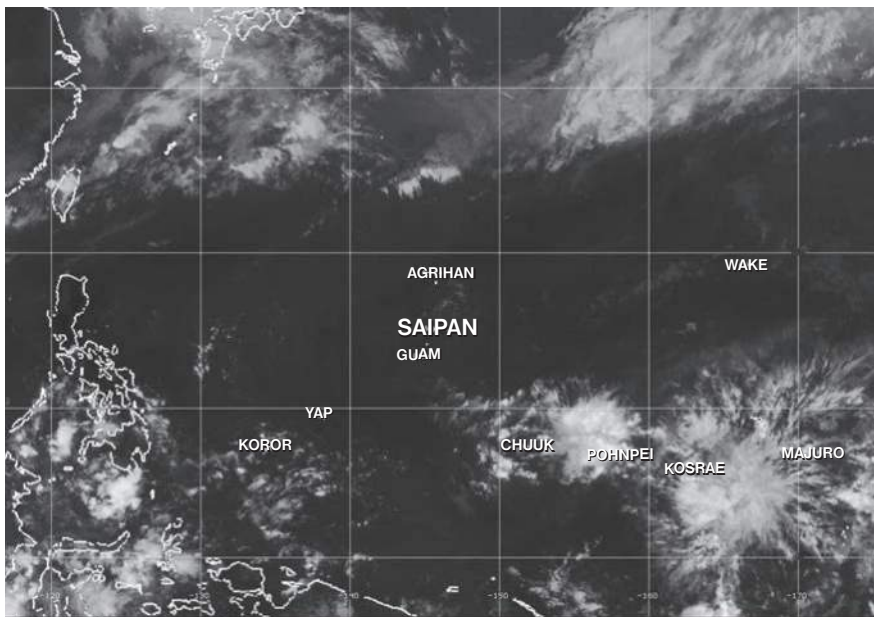
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲98	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Rain	▲66	▼56
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲94	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲71	▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼73
New York	Showers	▲68	▼59
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Paris	Thundershowers	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼58
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼60
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼57
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Cloudiness and scattered showers associated with a frontal boundary north of 25N are found north of Iwo To island and Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 25N130E to 24N145E to 25N156E. Low-level convergence is producing a few thunderstorms south of Koror between 4N and 7N from 132E to 139E. A near-equatorial trough undulates eastward from 3N146E to EQ159E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present east of Chuuk and near Pohnpei from 5N to 11N and 149E to 160E. A couple of trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over portions of Kosrae state and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 161E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:50 AM
Thursday	12:36 PM	12:47 PM
Friday	1:22 AM	1:43 PM
Saturday	2:07 AM	2:38 PM
Sunday	2:51 AM	3:33 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 14-and-under take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014. Seated from left are first place winner Miku Kimura and second place Maya Shimizu. Standing second from left is third place winner Miles Timmons.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 15-and-up during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan. Seated from left are first place winner Wheng Javan, second place winner Rustine Valico, and third place Ezeth Smith.

Week 3 of Taste of the Marianas a 'blast'

A balloon popping competition delivered a "blast" at Saturday's 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at American Memorial Park.

The event is held every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm in May as part of the monthlong celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands, delivering some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment.

Revelers joined two heats of the Balloon Popping Competition. The first heat for ages 14-and-under was won by Miku Kimura (first place), Maya Shimuzu (second place), and Miles Timmons (third place), who all sat on balloons as quickly as possible to discover the winning tickets. The second heat challenged competitors ages 15-and-up to inflate and pop five balloons the fastest. In the second heat, Wheng Javan finished first, followed by Rustine Valico in second, and Ezeth Smith in third.

This upcoming Saturday's Taste will feature the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition at 8pm at the secondary stage.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event. Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 16 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Canton Restaurant and 15 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mariana Resort & Spa and 15 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 15-and-up during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tropical Chilla's and 15 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

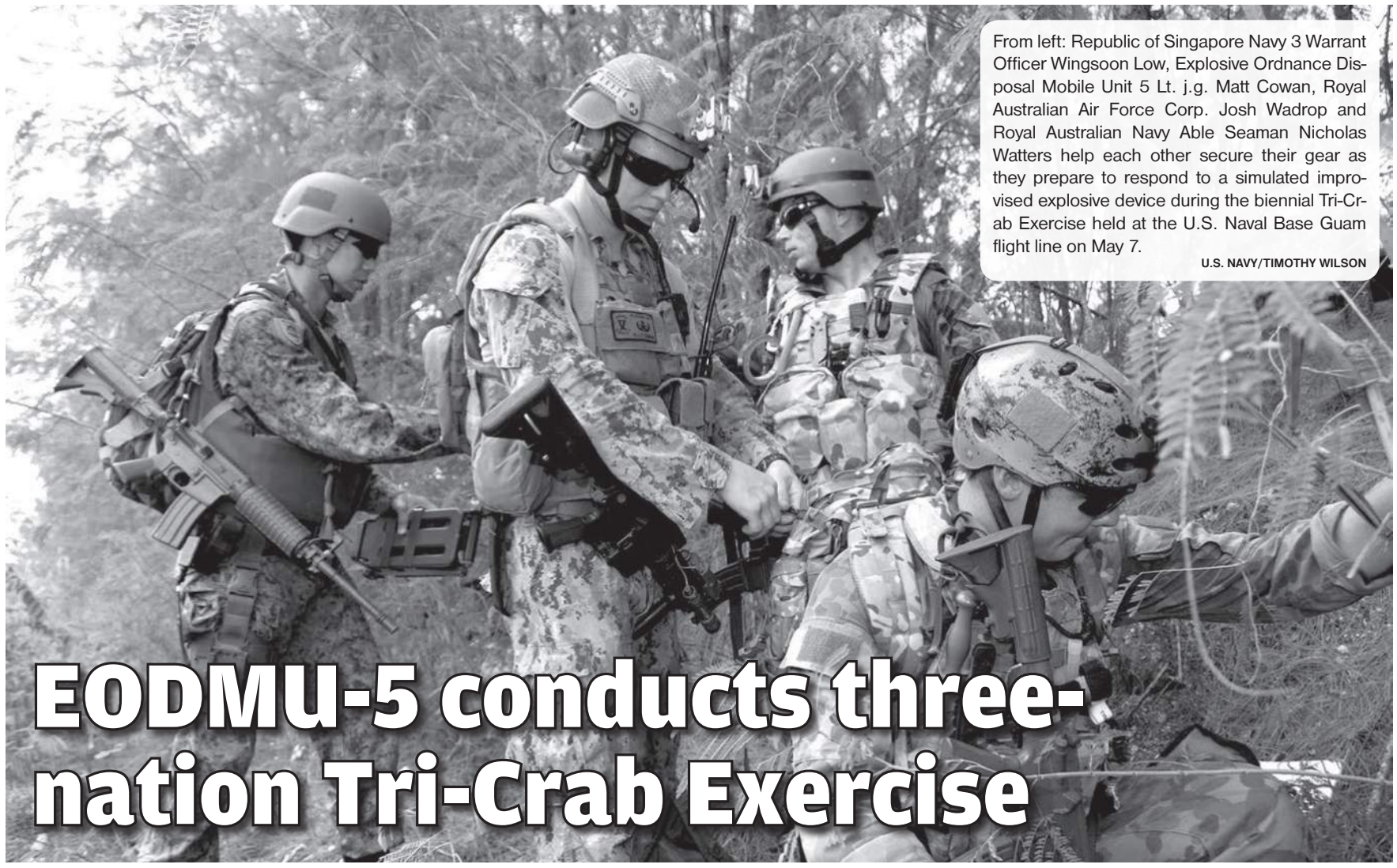
CAB Dancers perform a Palauan dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teka Naha Nui performs a Polynesian dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teka Naha Nui performs a Polynesian dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, on Saipan.



From left: Republic of Singapore Navy 3 Warrant Officer Wingsoon Low, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Lt. j.g. Matt Cowan, Royal Australian Air Force Corp. Josh Wadrop and Royal Australian Navy Able Seaman Nicholas Watters help each other secure their gear as they prepare to respond to a simulated improvised explosive device during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise held at the U.S. Naval Base Guam flight line on May 7.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

EODMU-5 conducts three-nation Tri-Crab Exercise

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 trained alongside members of the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force, Australian Army and Republic of Singapore Navy during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

The two-week training, which began April 28 and continued through May 9, focused on building closer relationships between the nations and enhancing the interoperability of their military units.

"That interoperability is one of [Pacific Command's] No. 1 priorities of theater security cooperation," said EODMU-5 commanding officer Cmdr. Oscar Rojas. "We're definitely able to meet those lines of operation and also use Guam as a great training platform for us. As we operate throughout the [Pacific Command area of responsibility], these partners provide us access into their countries. We're able to go in there because we already have pre-existing relationships and we can build upon that partnership that we have with them."

Tri-Crab emphasized the multi-nation aspect of potential missions by having personnel from the three nations integrate together in four- to six-member teams. In this format, the teams developed and practiced tactics, techniques, and procedures before participating in the field-training exercise portion of the event.

"The biggest takeaway from this experience is really the integration between us and how close partners we actually are," said Lt. Marc Rennie, Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team One executive officer. "I've never been more impressed in regards to how well the U.S. can run an exercise and also train, and provide that integration."

Service members from each nation learned how to properly handle improvised explosive devices in waterborne, vehicle, and roadside scenarios. The training also included rapid flight line clearance to prepare an area for aircraft landing in the event of a quick extraction; pier searching, which involves sending personnel to search for any device that may harm a vessel preparing to dock; and identifying weapons or explosives.

EODMU-5 is a forward-deployed command that provides mine countermeasures and joint expeditionary and special operations forces for missions within the Western Pacific and other areas as needed. ***(PR)***

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

A U.S. explosive ordnance technician dismantles a training improvised suicide vest from an Australian colleague during a nighttime training exercise during Tri-Crab 2014 in Yigo on May 8.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Republic of Singapore Navy 3 Warrant Officer Wingsoon Low secures an area after disposing of an improvised rocket launcher used for simulated attacks as members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 observe during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise held near the U.S. Naval Base Guam flight line on May 7.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Republic of Singapore Navy 3 Warrant Officer Wingsoon Low investigates an improvised rocket launcher used for simulated attacks as Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Matthew Wehr, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, observes during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise held near the U.S. Naval Base Guam flight line on May 7.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Royal Australian Air Force Corp. Louis Karsten uses a Talon robot to perform a bomb disposal after a simulated attack during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise held at San Luis Beach on U.S. Naval Base Guam on May 7.

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Royal Australian Air Force Corp. Louis Karsten searches for improvised explosive device components after a simulated attack during the biennial Tri-Crab Exercise held at San Louis Beach on U.S. Naval Base Guam on May 7.

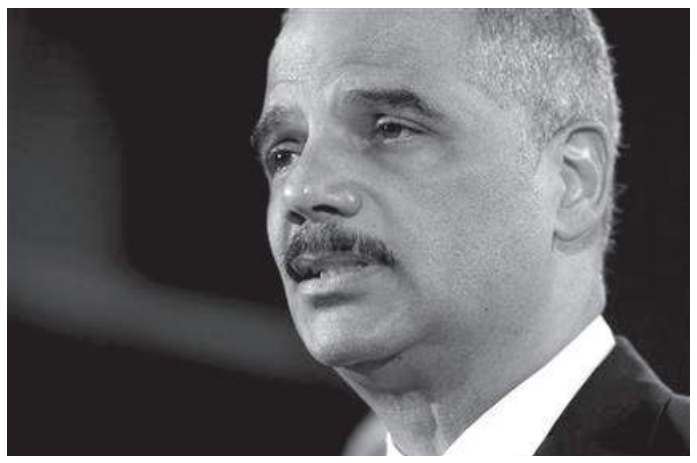
Business

Credit Suisse pleads guilty in US tax evasion case

WASHINGTON (AP)—European bank Credit Suisse AG pleaded guilty Monday to helping wealthy Americans avoid paying taxes through secret offshore accounts and agreed to pay about $2.6 billion to the U.S. government and regulators.

The Justice Department said it was the largest penalty imposed in any criminal tax case. It is also the largest bank to plead guilty in more than 20 years.

The settlement resolves a yearslong criminal investigation into allegations that Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-largest bank, recruited U.S. clients to open Swiss accounts, helped them conceal the accounts from the Internal Revenue Service and enabled misconduct by bank employees. The case is part of an Obama administration crackdown on foreign banks believed to be helping U.S. taxpayers hide assets.



AP

Attorney General Eric Holder speaks during a news conference at the Justice Department, on Monday, May 19, 2014, in Washington.

Law enforcement officials said a criminal charge was necessary to account for the bank's pattern of misconduct, which spanned decades and included a lack of cooperation with investigators and the destruction of critical documents. But the deal was also structured in such a way as to allow the bank to continue operating.

The penalties will be paid to the Justice Department, the Federal Reserve and the New York State Department of Financial Services.

US charges Chinese officials in cyberspying case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Accusing China of vast business spying, the United States charged five military officials on Monday with hacking into U.S. companies to steal vital trade secrets in a case intensifying already-rising tensions between the international economic giants.

The Chinese targeted big-name American makers of nuclear and solar technology, stealing confidential business information, sensitive trade secrets and internal communications for competitive advantage, according to a grand jury indictment that the Justice Department said should be a national "wake-up call" about cyber intrusions.

A company's success in the international marketplace should not be based "on a sponsor government's ability to spy and steal business secrets," Attorney General Eric Holder declared at a news conference.

The alleged targets were Alcoa World Alumina, Westinghouse Electric Co., Allegheny Technologies, U.S. Steel Corp., the United Steelworkers Union and SolarWorld. The indictment, which includes charges of trade-secret theft and economic espionage, was issued in Pittsburgh, where most of the companies are based.

China denied it all. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said the charges were based on "fabricated facts" and would jeopardize China-U.S. "cooperation and mutual trust."

"China is steadfast in upholding cybersecurity," said the statement. "The Chinese government, the Chinese military and their relevant personnel have never engaged or participated in cybertheft of trade secrets. The U.S. accusation against Chinese personnel is purely ungrounded and absurd."

In a further move late Monday, China announced it was suspending cooperation with the U.S. in a joint cybersecurity working group and warned of further retaliation "as the situation evolves." The working group was established in April 2013 following the publication of allegations of spying by the Chinese military and held its first meeting last July.

The announcement from Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang also sought to turn the spying allegations on the U.S. "China is a victim of severe U.S. cyber theft, wiretapping and surveillance activities," Qin said.

Cox, Wo join FHB board; Harrison to assume chairman role

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank announced yesterday the appointments of two new board members:

• Matthew Cox, president and CEO of Matson, Inc.

• Scott Wo, chief investment officer, C.S. Wo & Sons, Ltd.

Both of these executives are strong leaders within their own companies, and are willing to share their expertise with the bank. They are also individuals who have proven their commitment to the community, which is very important to the bank and its board members. These two appointments follow the retirement from the board by Dr. Richard T. Mamiya and Robert C. Wo.

The Board of Directors of First Hawaiian Bank also announced yesterday that president and chief executive officer, Robert S. Harrison, will become chairman of the board following the retirement of Donald G. Horner as chairman.

Horner, who has served as board chairman since 2008, will remain a member of both the bank's board and the BancWest Corporation board.

"Don is an extraordinary business leader and public servant and we appreciate the significant contributions he has made in working with the board of directors and the bank's senior management team to oversee First Hawaiian's development as Hawaii's leading bank," said Harrison. "With Don's continued service on the board, the bank will benefit greatly from his steady guidance and commitment to good governance."

Harrison will retain his current responsibilities as the bank's president and chief executive officer and will add the title of chairman of the board. He has over 25 years of financial services industry experience, joining First Hawaiian as a business banker in 1996

"This was the logical next step in our succession plans," said Horner. "Bob is committed to continuing the bank's legacy of steady, consistent growth, relationship banking, and community support."

First Hawaiian Bank recently reported strong first quarter 2014 performance with solid earnings of $53.2 million. The bank achieved record levels in Deposits of $13.8 billion and Loans of $9.5 billion with assets at $17.3 billion.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It operates 57 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. ***(FHB)***

Nation

Fears linger for students who faced deadly tornado

MOORE, Okla. (AP)—Ten-year-old Kai Heuangpraseuth will return to a new Plaza Towers Elementary in the fall, built on the same spot where seven of the boy's schoolmates died last year after a top-scale tornado reduced it to a pile of rubble.

Christopher Legg will not be there, but his mother says perhaps her son's death will hurt a little less if last May's tragedy in Moore helps lead to safer schools.

One year after the deadly tornado carved a 17-mile path through the heart of this Oklahoma City suburb and killed 24 people, deep scars remain—especially for families who lost loved ones and children traumatized after riding out the fearsome storm inside two elementary schools.

Neither Plaza Towers nor nearby Briarwood Elementary had an underground shelter or tornado safe room, so when the tornado bore down, with winds speed exceeding 200 mph, the students huddled into hallways or crammed into bathrooms or closets. Most of the child victims died after a massive wall collapsed and suffocated them.

Kai, who was plucked from the school's rubble by a police officer in a moment captured by an Associated Press photographer, is excited about the new school, but still troubled by bad weather and certain loud sounds.

"He's still got his triggers," said Kai's mother, Jacalyn Russell, who plans to move back into the Plaza Towers district this summer. "It's not really the rain. He likes the rain. It's more the wind, and sounds that sound similar ... like the trains."

Even the slightest turn in the weather can cause anxiety and fear for the surviving Plaza Towers students, who have been attending classes at a refurbished junior high since the storm, Principal Amy Simpson said.

"We try not to say `tornado' around here," said Simpson, who rode out the storm with five other staffers in a small bathroom. "Just the word scares them."

Even the continuous outpouring of cards, gifts and well wishes from students across the country brings fresh reminders.

"The hardest part about that is that the kids are reminded each time someone gives something to us that their friends are gone," she said.

Nine-year-old Haley Delgado carried a pair of headphones around with her for months to block out the sound of the wind, which reminds her of the EF-5 tornado, mom Athena Delgado said.

"We still have them, but she doesn't still use them," said Delgado, whose 10-year-old son Xavier Delgado also was in the school that day.

4 major phone carriers providing text-to-911

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The four major U.S. wireless phone companies are providing emergency texting 911 service as of this month to any local government that wants it and has the capability to use it, a big step toward moving the nation's emergency dispatch system out of the voice-only technology that dates to the 1960s.

Local governments in 16 states are using it, according to the Federal Communications Commission, and Vermont became the first to offer the technology statewide Monday.

"This is a big deal," Brian Fontes, the chief executive officer of the Virginia-based National Emergency Number Association, said of the four major carriers offering text-to-911.

"It's been a long time—years, decades—since our nation's 911 systems have been advanced. They are pretty much still almost 100 percent voice-centric, 1960s technology."

Fontes said that 911 texting is part of a broader push to use technology to enhance the information that can be provided to emergency responders.

"In today's technology world where you and I and other people have smartphones that can do many different things simultaneously, it's important that we have the opportunity to ensure that our nation's 911 centers are equally equipped with technology."

Some professional sports teams allow fans to report unruly behavior inside stadiums and arenas through texting, while law enforcement has started using text messaging during standoff negotiations.

Police have also embraced using social media to deliver information and to help in investigations.

The four major providers—Sprint, Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile and AT&T—voluntarily committed to providing the service by May 15. The FCC has required all service providers to offer it by the end of the year.

The text-to-911 service is now limited to text only—photos, videos and location information will have to wait for the next generation of the technology.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arizona probes whether deputy targeted Hispanics

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona sheriff's deputy who recently killed himself may have been shaking down immigrants in an unusual case where authorities discovered hundreds of hours of recorded traffic stops, driver's licenses, passports and other documents in the man's home during a drug investigation, according to newly released court records. The revelations tie the allegations of racial profiling against Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his office to the investigation into former Deputy Ramon Charley Armendariz, whose bizarre behavior earlier this month led to a standoff at his house and later, his May 8 hanging death while he was being investigated for drug possession and the trove of stashed documents and recordings. Among the materials found at Armendariz's home were about 900 hours of recorded traffic stops; nearly 200 driver's licenses and identification cards; five U.S. immigration cards; 104 license plates; four foreign passports; and 26 credit, debit and merchant cards.

New Mexico says 57 nuke containers could be threat

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Los Alamos National Laboratory packed 57 barrels of nuclear waste with a type of kitty litter believed to have caused a radiation leak at the federal government's troubled nuclear waste dump, posing a potentially "imminent" and "substantial" threat to public health and the environment, New Mexico officials said Monday. State Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn issued a formal order giving the lab two days to submit a plan for securing the waste containers, many of which are likely stored outdoors on the lab's northern New Mexico campus or at temporary site in west Texas. The order says 57 barrels of waste were packed with nitrate salts and organic kitty litter, a combination thought to have caused a heat reaction and radiation release that contaminated 22 workers with low levels of radiation at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad in February.

Asia

Thailand's army declares martial law, denies coup

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's army declared martial law before dawn Tuesday in a surprise announcement it said was aimed at keeping the country stable after six months of sometimes violent political unrest. The military, however, denied a coup d'etat was underway.

The move effectively places the army in charge of public security nationwide. It comes one day after the Southeast Asian country's caretaker prime minister refused to step down and follows six months of anti-government demonstrations that have failed to oust the government.

Armed troops entered multiple private television stations in Bangkok to broadcast their message and surrounded the national police headquarters in the city center. But the vast skyscraper-strewn metropolis of 10 million people appeared calm, with schools open and commuters driving and walking to work as usual.

On a major road in front of Central World, one of the country's most luxurious shopping malls, bystanders gawked at soldiers in jeeps mounted with machine-guns who diverted traffic. The mood wasn't tense; passers-by stopped to take cell phone pictures of the soldiers.

An army official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, told The Associated Press "this is definitely not a coup. This is only to provide safety to the people and the people can still carry on their lives as normal."

AP

A Thai soldier mans his machine gun atop a military vehicle outside the Centre for the Administration of Peace and Order (CAPO) after soldiers were sent in to seize the center Tuesday, May 20, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Justice Minister Chaikasem Nitisiri told The Associated Press the army had not consulted the Cabinet. He played down the move, saying the caretaker government was still running the country but that the army was now in charge of security.

"Security matters will be handled solely by the military, and whether the situation intensifies or is resolved is up to them," he said. "There is no cause to panic. Personally, I welcome the move."

Thailand's army has staged 11 coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932.

Thailand, an economic hub for Southeast Asia, has been gripped by off-and-on political turmoil since 2006, when former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was toppled by a military coup after being accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The latest round of unrest started last November, when anti-government protesters took to the streets to try to oust then-Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister. She had dissolved the lower house of parliament in December in a bid to ease the crisis.

PH, Indonesia reach pact on sea dispute

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines said Monday it has reached an agreement with Indonesia on a sea border dispute after 20 years of negotiations, and hopes to sign the pact soon.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said the Southeast Asian neighbors concluded their talks over the weekend in Jakarta, Indonesia, with a draft accord and a chart showing the agreed boundary of their overlapping exclusive economic zones in the Celebes Sea and Mindanao Sea.

An exclusive economic zone is the 230-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of sea where a country has exclusive rights to fish and exploit undersea gas and oil deposits under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Negotiators endorsed the accord for signing by the two countries' top diplomats "at the soonest possible time," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Department spokesman Charles Jose said the agreement, details of which have not yet been released, was welcome news in a region that has been buffeted by long-seething territorial rifts in another body of water, the busy South China Sea, involving China, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Foreign Undersecretary Evan Garcia, who headed the Philippine delegations in the Jakarta talks, said in the statement that the conclusion of the border talks reflected the two countries' "friendship, patience, goodwill and commitment ... to peacefully address maritime issues."

"This is a significant contribution to, and an example of, reasonable efforts to build a stable and peaceful regional community ... in accordance with international law," Garcia said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia to release satellite data on missing jet

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia says it will publicly release satellite data used to narrow down the search for the missing jetliner to the southern Indian Ocean. The Civil Aviation Department and British company Inmarsat said in a joint statement Tuesday said they would do this "in line with our commitment to greater transparency." Some family members of the 239 people on the plane have demanded raw satellite data to be made public for independent analysis. The government says calculations using Inmarsat data showed Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ended in the Indian Ocean after it went missing March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. No wreckage has been found, and an underwater hunt continues.

Subway explosion lightly injures 11 in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An electrical problem caused an explosion at a South Korean subway station Monday evening, lightly injuring 11 people, an emergency official said. A part of the train's electrical insulation device was damaged and triggered the explosion at a station in Gunpo city just south of Seoul, local emergency official Yoo Hyung-gi said. He said operations later resumed at the station. The incident came as South Korean media ramped up their focus on allegations of widespread safety negligence in the country following a ferry disaster that left more than 300 people dead or missing last month. There is suspicion that the ferry set off with far more cargo than it could safely carry and that crew members abandoned passengers in need.

World

Putin orders troops near Ukraine to return home

MOSCOW (AP)—In what could be an attempt to ease tensions with the West and avoid more sanctions, President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops deployed near Ukraine to return to their home bases Monday.

Putin also praised the launch of a dialogue between Ukraine's government and its opponents even as fighting continued in parts of the country ahead of Sunday's presidential election.

The seemingly conciliatory approach suggested that Putin may believe he has achieved his key goal of maintaining Russian influence over eastern Ukraine without having to send in troops.

Russia still wants guarantees that Ukraine will not join NATO and will conduct constitutional reforms to give broader powers to its regions, something that would allow Moscow to maintain its clout in the Russian-speaking east that forms the industrial heartland. The continued unrest in the east is serving Putin by making it difficult for the government in Kiev to consolidate its control in the region.

Putin specifically ordered Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to pull back the forces involved in the "planned spring drills" in the Rostov, Belgorod and Bryansk regions to their home bases, the Kremlin said. The order appears to go further than a similar statement by the Russian leader two weeks ago that troops were being pulled back from the border to shooting ranges.

The three regions border Ukraine, and the withdrawal of troops deployed there would signal a genuine attempt by Moscow to de-escalate the worst crisis in its relations with the West since the Cold War. It also would be easily verifiable by Western intelligence.

The Kremlin statement didn't say how many troops would be pulled out or specify how quick the withdrawal would be. NATO has estimated that Russia has 40,000 troops arrayed along the border with Ukraine.

The U.S. and NATO said they saw no sign of a pullout after Putin's earlier claim of a withdrawal. On Monday, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen reiterated that the military alliance has "not seen any evidence at all that the Russians have started withdrawal of troops from the Ukrainian border."

He said that NATO remains open to a political dialogue with Moscow and has proposed holding a meeting at the NATO-Russia Council next week.

Floods threaten power plant, land mines in Balkans

OBRENOVAC, Serbia (AP)—Serbia ordered the evacuation Monday of this town and 11 others along the raging Sava River, but Bratislava Pavlovic won't budge, even as water rising six feet in an hour lapped outside her third-floor apartment.

"I grew up in this town," the 58-year-old postal worker said. "I was born and raised here."

The worst rainfall in more than a century has flooded large swathes of Bosnia and Serbia, threatening Serbia's main power plant and unleashing landslides that have swept away homes and unearthed land mines left over from the region's war, along with warning signs pinpointing their locations.

At least 35 people have died and tens of thousands have been forced to flee their homes.

In Obrenovac, shop windows were shattered and children's bicycles, bedding, chairs and car tires were scattered in the streets. Dogs abandoned by their owners roamed about in packs as security forces distributed drinking water and food to the few remaining residents.

"It came like a big wave," Pavlovic said of the churning floodwaters that inundated the town of 15,000 some 20 miles south of the capital, Belgrade, when the Sava overflowed its banks.

"It happened in one hour, two meters of water. Nobody saw it coming," said Pavlovic, whose two sons and their families were among those who fled.

Another surge of floodwaters on Monday prompted the evacuation order for a dozen communities, including Obrenovac, where soldiers, police and volunteers worked around the clock to protect the coal-fired Nikola Tesla power plant, which supplies electricity for half of Serbia and most of Belgrade.

Emergency crews have so far defended the plant by building high walls of sandbags, but some of the barriers were destroyed when a powerful 9-foot-high surge of floodwater burst through them Monday.

Hundreds of people were evacuated by helicopters and buses, joining some 7,800 residents already forced from their homes since Friday. Hundreds more were believed trapped in the higher floors of buildings, without power or phone lines.

The death toll is expected to rise as floodwaters recede after the worst rainfall since records began to be kept 120 years ago.

Colombia charges driver in bus fire that killed 32

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian authorities said Monday night that aggravated manslaughter charges would be filed against a bus driver over the deaths of 32 children from a fire in the overcrowded vehicle bringing them home from Sunday school.

Luz Estella Duran, mayor of the village of Fundacion where Sunday's tragedy took place, said witness accounts suggested the driver might have left the small bus running with the children on board when he got out to put gas in its tank from a portable container.

Twenty others were hospitalized, with about half in a delicate state, Duran said.

President Juan Manuel Santos interrupted a busy final stretch of campaigning ahead of the May 25 elections and traveled Sunday night to the town near the Caribbean coast to pay his respects to the mostly poor families of the victims. He called for a thorough investigation to prevent more such tragedies and declared a national day of mourning.

"We are with you. The entire country is with you," Santos said.

The children, ranging in age from toddlers to 12, were traveling home from Sunday school classes at a small Pentecostal church down the road from a nearby town where Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez was born.

Nelson Tapias, a 54-year-old merchant in the town, said he lost his granddaughter and several nephews. "I have my heart torn apart in six pieces," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Bus accidents are frequent in Colombia, especially in poorer, rural areas like the one near Fundacion where safety inspections and transit laws are rarely enforced.

Gen. Carlos Mena, the highway police commander overseeing operations in Fundacion, said the driver was operating the bus without a license or mandatory insurance. The 1993 Dodge's registration papers were also out of date and the bus was carrying twice the maximum number of passengers allowed.

Focus

More renounce US citizenship but deny stereotype

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Inside the long-awaited package, six pages of government paperwork dryly affirmed Carol Tapanila's anxious request. But when Tapanila slipped the contents from the brown envelope, she saw there was something more.

"We the people...." declared the script inside her U.S. passport—now with four holes punched through it from cover to cover. Her departure from life as an American was stamped final on the same page: "Bearer Expatriated Self."

With the envelope's arrival, Tapanila, a native of upstate New York who has lived in Canada since 1969, joined a largely overlooked surge of Americans rejecting what is, to millions, a highly sought prize: U.S. citizenship. Last year, the U.S. government reported a record 2,999 people renounced citizenship or terminated permanent residency; most are widely assumed to be driven by a desire to avoid paying taxes on hidden wealth.

The reality, though, is more complicated. The government's pursuit of tax evaders among Americans living abroad is indeed driving the jump in abandoned citizenship, experts say. But renouncers—whose ranks have swelled more than fivefold from a decade ago—often contradict the stereotype of the financial scoundrel. Many are from very ordinary economic circumstances.

Some call themselves "accidental Americans," who recall little of life in the U.S., but long ago happened to be born in it. Others say they renounced because of politics, family or personal identity. Some say signing away citizenship was a huge relief. Others recall being sickened by the decision.

At the U.S. consulate in Geneva, "I talked to a man who explained to me that I could never, ever get my nationality back," says Donna-Lane Nelson, whose Boston accent lingers though she's lived in Switzerland 24 years. "It felt like a divorce. It felt like a death. I took the second oath and I left the consulate and I threw up."

When Americans do hear about compatriots rejecting citizenship, it's more often people keeping their U.S. citizenship and dropping that of another country.

Last year, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz acknowledged the Canadian citizenship he was born to, but said he would renounce it. In 2012, Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minnesota, saying she was "100 percent committed to our United States Constitution," announced she was giving up Swiss citizenship gained through marriage.

One of the few times rejected U.S. citizenship has gotten significant ink was Facebook cofounder Eduardo Saverin's 2011 decision to turn in his American passport after moving to Singapore. Saverin likely avoided millions of dollars in taxes by doing so shortly before Facebook's initial stock offering.

Other wealthy Americans also have relinquished U.S. citizenship. Denise Rich, the ex-wife of pardoned trader Marc Rich, expatriated in 2012 and lives in London. Last fall, singer Tina Turner, a resident of Switzerland since 1995, relinquished her U.S. passport.

But Saverin's decision, in particular, hit a political nerve, along with scandals surrounding UBS and Credit Suisse, which were caught matching wealthy Americans with offshore accounts.

In recent years, federal officials have stepped up pursuit of potential tax evaders, using the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act which requires that Americans overseas report assets to the IRS or pay stiff penalties. Those trying to comply complain of costly fees for accountants and lawyers, having to report the income of non-American spouses, and decisions by some European banks to close accounts of U.S. citizens or deny them loans.

But some of those surrendering citizenship say their reasons are as much about life as about taxes, particularly since the U.S. government does not tax Americans abroad on their first $96,600 in yearly income.

Decisions to renounce "are driven by a whole range of emotional considerations. ... You've got anger, you've got fear, you've got a strong sense of indignation," said John Richardson, a Toronto lawyer who advises people on expatriation. "For many of these people, this is not a tax issue at all."

Even some who acknowledge tax worries say decisions to renounce are far more complicated than a simple desire to avoid paying.

Peter Dunn, born in Chicago and raised in Alaska, moved to Canada to pursue a graduate degree in theology. He met his wife, Catherine, and they made Toronto home when her work as one of the owners of an aviation maintenance firm made her the breadwinner.

Dunn remained an American. But he was alarmed by a change in U.S. law requiring those with more than $2 million in assets to pay an exit tax if they gave up citizenship. He didn't have $2 million. But his wife was doing well enough that he imagined one day they could get there. The idea of the U.S. government taxing his Canadian wife's money didn't seem right.

AP

This July 2012 photo provided by Carol Tapanila shows her and her second husband in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

"When I learned about that, I decided that to protect my wife, I better expatriate," he says.

Corine Mauch arrived at the same decision by a different route. Mauch was born a U.S. citizen to Swiss parents who were college students in Iowa. They lived in the U.S. until she was 5, then again for two more years before she turned 11. Mauch maintained dual citizenship even after she was elected to Zurich's city council. But when she became mayor, she reconsidered.

During the last American presidential election, "I asked myself `Where do I feel at home?' And the answer is clear: In Zurich and in Switzerland. My attachment to America is limited to my very early youth," Mauch said. Double taxation was "not the crucial factor for my decision. But I will not miss the U.S. tax bureaucracy either."

Taxes play little or no role in other decisions.

Norman Heinrichs-Gale's parents were missionaries from Washington state who raised him in Asia and the Middle East. In 1986, he traveled to Austria with his American wife, and they found work at a conference center in an alpine valley town of 6,000. The jobs were supposed to last a year. But the couple stayed, sending their children to local schools.

On yearly trips to the U.S. he felt increasingly like a stranger. "I never forget going into a grocery store and just being stunned by my choice of cereals," Heinrichs-Gale says. "I was stunned by just the pace of life compared to what we have here, stunned by the extremes of wealth and poverty that I encountered."

There wasn't one single thing that pushed him away. But his children wanted to attend Austrian colleges and he and his wife wanted to vote in the country they considered home. The family was tired of renewing visas and work permits. And so they signed documents giving up U.S. citizenship. Now, one of the last vestiges of American culture in their home is watching Seattle Seahawks games online.

Sports played the central role in Quincy Davis III's decision. Davis, raised in Los Angeles and Mobile, Ala., played professional basketball in Europe after three years as Tulane University's leading scorer. By 2011, he was home studying to become a firefighter when he was offered a spot on a Taiwanese pro squad. He's since helped lead the Pure Youth Construction team to two championships.

When the team's owner suggested last year that he join Taiwan's national team, Davis says he found little motivation to keep his U.S. citizenship.

"When you think about who I am as a black guy in the U.S., I didn't have opportunities," he says. "You get discriminated against over there in the South. Here everyone is so nice. They invite you into their homes, they're so hospitable. ... There's no crime, no guns. I can't help but love this place."

Many others cutting their U.S. ties say tax laws drive decisions that have nothing to do with secreting wealth.

"I wish I were wealthy," said Nelson, who says she takes in about $50,000 a year from pensions and earnings from publishing an online journal covering credit union news.

Nelson has vivid memories of growing up in the U.S. Even after moving to Europe, she continued sending five to 10 emails a week to members of Congress, opposing the Iraq war and the Patriot Act. After 15 years, she acquired Swiss citizenship so she could vote. But she began considering expatriation only in 2010 after a banker told her that, because of new U.S. financial reporting laws, it was closing the accounts of many Americans and a mistake as minor as an overdraft could mean the same for hers.

"How would my clients pay me?" says Nelson, who is 71 and also an author of mystery novels. "Where does my Social Security get deposited? Where does my pension get deposited?"

The jump in renunciations reflects evolving views about national identity, said Nancy L. Green, an American professor at the L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. When the U.S. got its start, citizenship was defined by "perpetual allegiance"—the British notion of nationality as a birthright that could never be changed.

American colonists rejected that to justify becoming citizens of a newly independent country. But changeable citizenship wasn't widely embraced until the mass immigration of the late 1800s, says Green, a historian of migration and expatriation.

Even then, U.S. artists and writers who moved to Europe in the 1920s were criticized, suspected of trying to avoid taxes. Until the 1960s, U.S. citizenship remained a privilege the government could take away on certain grounds. It's only since then that U.S. citizenship has come to be viewed as belonging to an individual, who could keep—or surrender it—by choice.

But Carol Tapanila's life in Canada has tested that redefinition.

Six years after Tapanila's husband lost his job at a Boeing factory in Washington state and they moved to Canada for work, the couple became citizens of their new country. She says U.S. consular officials told her that, by swearing allegiance to Canada, she might well have lost her American citizenship.

After retiring from a job as an administrative assistant at an oil company in Calgary, Tapanila began putting $125 a month into a special savings account for her developmentally disabled son, matched by the Canadian government. In her will, she authorized creation of a trust fund to draw on retirement savings and other assets to provide for her son, who is now 40, after her death.

Tapanila says she didn't know she was required to file U.S. tax returns until 2007, when her daughter raised the subject. Her troubles were compounded by her decision to apply for a U.S. passport after a border officer told her she should have one. She has since spent $42,000 on fees for lawyers and accountants and paid about $2,000 in U.S. taxes, including on funds in her son's disability savings account.

In 2012 she turned in the passport, renouncing U.S. citizenship to protect money saved for her retirement and her son. Tapanila, 70, has tried and failed to renounce U.S. citizenship on his behalf, saying officials told her such a decision must be made by the individual alone.

"You know, we are not rich people and we are not tax evaders and we are not traitors and I'm more than tired of being labeled that way," Tapanila says.

"I'm sorry that I've given my son this burden and I can do nothing about it ... I thought we had some rights to go wherever we wanted to go and some choices we could make in our lives. I thought that was democracy. Apparently, I've got it all wrong."

Campus Life

Excellent job for GCA students in PGFC regionals

Ten Grace Christian Academy students bagged 11 out of 60 major awards for both divisions: kindergarten to second grade and third grade to fifth grade in the 2014 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition held on May 3, 2014, at Oleai Elementary School.

The first to third placers will be awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively. The winners of gold medals are fifth-grader Gianpaolo Borromeo and second-grader Julia Christine Jinang, both for Impromptu Speaking. The silver medalists are second-grader Kei Lizama and fourth-grader James Keaton, also both for Impromptu Speaking. The bronze medalists are third-grader Brandie Matsumoto for Impromptu Speaking, first-grader Moira Ernest, and third-grader Steven Adriatico, both for Dramatic Interpretation.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank everyone who participated, including the coaches and judges in this year's PGFC competitions.

Organized by the National Forensic League board and supported by the CNMI Public School System, kindergarten to fifth grade students from private and public schools vied for this year's PGFC regional awards in forensic arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

Great job to all GCA PGFC participants this school year and congratulations to the following winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ten Grace Christian Academy students bagged 11 out of 60 major awards for both divisions in the 2014 Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition held on May 3, 2014, at Oleai Elementary School.

K-2 Division

Impromptu Speaking

Julia Christine Jinang, first place

Kei Lizama, second place

Dramatic Interpretation

Moira Grace Ernest, third place

Humorous Interpretation

Moira Grace Ernest, fifth place

Reader's Forum

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, fourth place

3-5 Division

Impromptu Speaking

Gianpaolo Borromeo, first place

James Alexander Keaton, second place

Brandie Matsumoto, third place

Matthew Ernest, fourth place

Dramatic Interpretation

Steven Adriatico, third place

Reader's Forum

Mikaelah Owens, fourth place

GCA PGFC Coach/Coordinator: Esther Manzano,

GCA PGFC Volunteer Judges: Rowena Libut, Cesar Libut, Paulo Montecarlo, Minna Ito, Melody Woo

Green Meadow School students shine at forensic competition

The school management and staff of Green Meadow School congratulate all the students who competed in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held on May 3, 2014, at Oleai Elementary School for their outstanding performances. Thanks to teachers and coaches and to the parents for their encouragement and support. Good job Falcons!".

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School president, Mila Merjilla, extreme right, first row, joins the teachers/coaches and the winning students at the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held on May 2014 at Oleai Elementary School.

K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation

1st place: Ariel Legaspi

2nd place: Andrielle Coloma

3rd place: Bernice Shane Sabino

Impromptu

3rd place: Chealzka Navarro

4th place: Areeza Anda

5th place: Elijah Umali

DUO

1st place: Kriselle Drilon, Nicole Sacramento

2nd place: Areeza Anda, Ariel Legaspi

5th place: Arro Hunter, Chealzka Navarro

CHORAL SPEAKING

3rd place: Jeremiah Alfred, Arnel Josh Coloma, Patrick Gregorio, John Paul Salamat, Elijah Umali

READERS FORUM

2nd place: Kristin Jewel Dela Cruz

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation

2nd place: Jill Anne Mallari

5th place: Bernard Marcelo

Humorous Interpretation

3rd place: Jill Anne Mallari

DUO

4th place: Lyndon Digno, Leunyce Regalado

5th place: Mikee Mame Mendoza, Bernard Marcelo

Choral Speaking A

3rd place: Kezia Arugay, Angelene Faith Cacdac, Cloe Ferlyn Lagmay, Jazmyn Lopez, Leunyce Regalado

SCS student to compete in National Junior Forensic League Competition

This summer while other students may be attending camp or visiting relatives on vacation, Esther Park, a sixth-grader at Saipan Community School, will be rehearsing to compete at the National Junior Forensic League National Competition in Overland Park, Kansas, as part of the CNMI National Team.

Park, who is a member of Saipan Community School's NJFL team of 15 students, recently competed in the regional competition for the opportunity to represent the CNMI.

Eleven other SCS students qualified to compete in the regionals where a hundred-plus middle school students participated. In addition to Park, four other students advanced to the final and semifinal rounds in their events. Rachel Kim achieved top 10 honors in Duo Interpretation and Prose. Sarah Kim also competed in the top 10 for Duo Interpretation with Kim. Isaac Jang climbed to the top 5, winning third place in Storytelling while Kate Ishida rose to the top 5 in two events, placing fifth in Dramatic Interpretation and fourth in Humorous Interpretation. Encouraged by the results of this year's competition, the SCS Forensics Team welcomes the challenges to best the competition next season.

The National Junior Forensic League is a prestigious middle school speech and debate society that hosts local meets throughout the school year. The NJFL "work to spark transformation in the lives of students, to help them become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and engaged, ethical members of our democratic society."

The June 17-20, 2014, competition will include the following debate topics:

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Resolved: The United States ought to prioritize the pursuit of national security objectives above the digital privacy of its citizens.

Policy Debate

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement toward Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela.

Public Forum Debate

Resolved: NATO should strengthen its relationship with Ukraine in order to deter further Russian aggression.

Extemporaneous Speaking

• R1: Politics in the United States • R2: China, Japan, and the Koreas • R3: Healthcare in the United States • Quarters: Russia and Eastern Europe • Semis: Business and Industry in the United States • Finals: International Relations

Impromptu Prompt Types

• R1: Proverbs from Across the World • R2: Special Occasions and Holidays • R3: Foods • Quarters: "What I would do if I could..." • Semis: Virtues of Leadership • Finals: Female Role Models of the 20th and 21st Centuries

Storytelling Theme

Thriller and Mystery

Established in 1976, Saipan Community School is the oldest Christian school on Saipan. For more information, call SCS at 234-6687 and visit their website, www.saipancommunityschool.com. ***(SCS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Community School students Kate Ishida, 6th grade; Isaac Jang, 8th grade; and Esther Park, 7th grade.

Life & Style

Anderson gives speech on past sexual abuse

CANNES, France (AP)—Pamela Anderson has previously talked about being a survivor of rape, but in an emotional speech for her new charity, she credits animals with helping her survive years of abuse at the hands of others.

Anderson was in Cannes to launch the Pamela Anderson Foundation, dedicated to boosting human rights, helping animals and the environment. At a yacht reception to inaugurate the charity, the actress went into detail about sexual assaults she says she endured from a young age.

"I did not have an easy childhood. Despite loving parents, I was molested from age 6 to 10 by my female babysitter. I went to a friend's boyfriend's house and when she was busy the boyfriend's older brother decided he would teach me backgammon which led in to a back massage, which led in to rape. My first heterosexual experience. He was 25 years old, I was 12," said Anderson, reading nervously from a sheet of paper at Friday evening's event.

The assaults didn't end there, she said: "My first boyfriend in grade nine decided it would be funny to gang rape me with six of his friends. Needless to say I had a hard time trusting humans and I just wanted off this earth."

"My parents tried to keep me safe. But to me the world was not a safe place. My dad an alcoholic, my mom worked two jobs waitressing. My mom was always crying, dad didn't always come home, leaving us in tremendous pain and worry. I couldn't bear to give her more disruptive information so I couldn't break her heart any more than it was breaking," she added.

She credits animals and nature for giving her hope to live.

"My affinity with animals saved me, they came to me naturally. The trees spoke to me, I wasn't sure why I was alive, a burning question, a quest. My loyalty remains with the animal kingdom. I vowed to protect them and only them," she said. "I prayed to whales with my feet in the ocean, my only real friends until I had children. Then I realized humanity was suffering and our children were born perfect."

The Pamela Anderson Foundation's mission is to provide funding for groups and individuals "on the front lines of human rights, animal rights and environmental protection," according to its mission statement.

AP

In this Jan. 11, 2014 file photo, Pamela Anderson arrives at the 3rd Annual Sean Penn & Friends Help Haiti Home Gala at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Romanian historian who debunked Dracula myth dies

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—He was a Romanian-born historian, professor and philanthropist who intrigued American popular culture by writing a book linking the fictional Count Dracula to the 15th-century Romanian prince Vlad the Impaler.

Radu Florescu died Sunday at age 88 in Mougins, France, from complications connected to pneumonia, his son John Florescu told The Associated Press on Monday.

Florescu wrote a dozen books but was most famous for "In Search of Dracula," which he co-authored with Raymond T. McNally in 1972. In it, he asserted that Irish author Bram Stoker based the Dracula character in his 1897 novel on Vlad the Impaler. Florescu's work was translated into 15 languages and the pair went on to write five more books on Dracula.

"No American has educated more Americans about Romania—and Dracula—than Professor Florescu. I was lucky to be one of his grateful students," said Jim Rosapepe, a former U.S. ambassador to Romania.

His son said Florescu was the director of the East European Research Center at Boston College, which he founded, from 1986 to 2008. In recent years, he provided scholarships for gifted Romanian students to study in the Boston area.

When former President Richard Nixon visited Romania in 1969, Florescu directed the U.S. Embassy media liaison, providing information for the White House press corps.

Romania's royal house sent condolences Monday on behalf of former Romanian King Michael, who was forced to abdicate in 1947 by the Communist-led government.

Florescu

"Through his work, Professor Florescu built a bridge between Romania and the United States, giving Romanian history ... a drop of universality," the royal house said in a statement, praising Florescu for dedicating himself to his students.

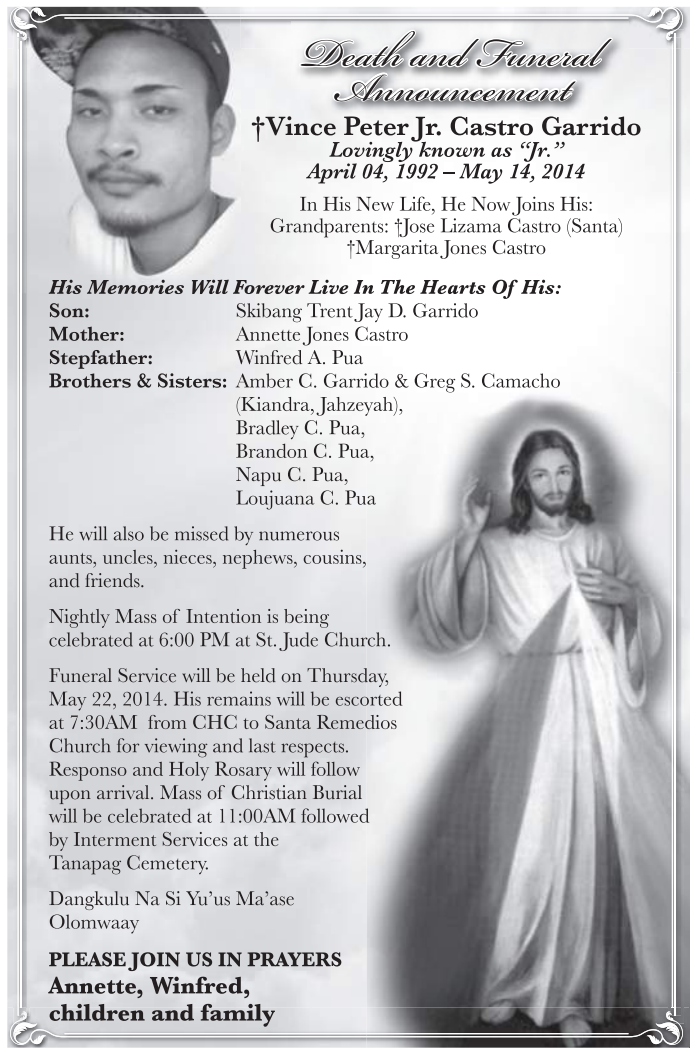
Former U.S. congressman Patrick Kennedy called him "a needed bridge between the United States and Romania and a wise counsel" to his father, the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, on Balkan affairs.

Born in Bucharest in 1925, Florescu left Romania on the Orient Express when he was 13 just as World War II broke out and traveled to Britain, where his father was acting ambassador. His father, also named Radu Florescu, resigned the post when pro-Hitler leader Marshal Ion Antonescu rose to power in Romania.

The younger Florescu won a scholarship to study at Oxford University, where he was taught by Sir William Deakin, Winston Churchill's biographer. Florescu later moved to America, ending up in Boston.

Florescu urged Romanians to embrace their new-found freedoms after communism ended in 1989. He received honors from former Romanian Presidents Ion Iliescu and Emil Constantinescu for his contributions to Romanian society.

He is survived by his French wife, Nicole, and their four children. He was to be buried Monday in southern France.



Death and Funeral Announcement

†Vince Peter Jr. Castro Garrido
Lovingly known as "Jr."
April 04, 1992 – May 14, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Grandparents: †Jose Lizama Castro (Santa)
†Margarita Jones Castro

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Son: Skibang Trent Jay D. Garrido
Mother: Annette Jones Castro
Stepfather: Winfred A. Pua
Brothers & Sisters: Amber C. Garrido & Greg S. Camacho (Kiandra, Jahzeyah), Bradley C. Pua, Brandon C. Pua, Napu C. Pua, Loujuana C. Pua

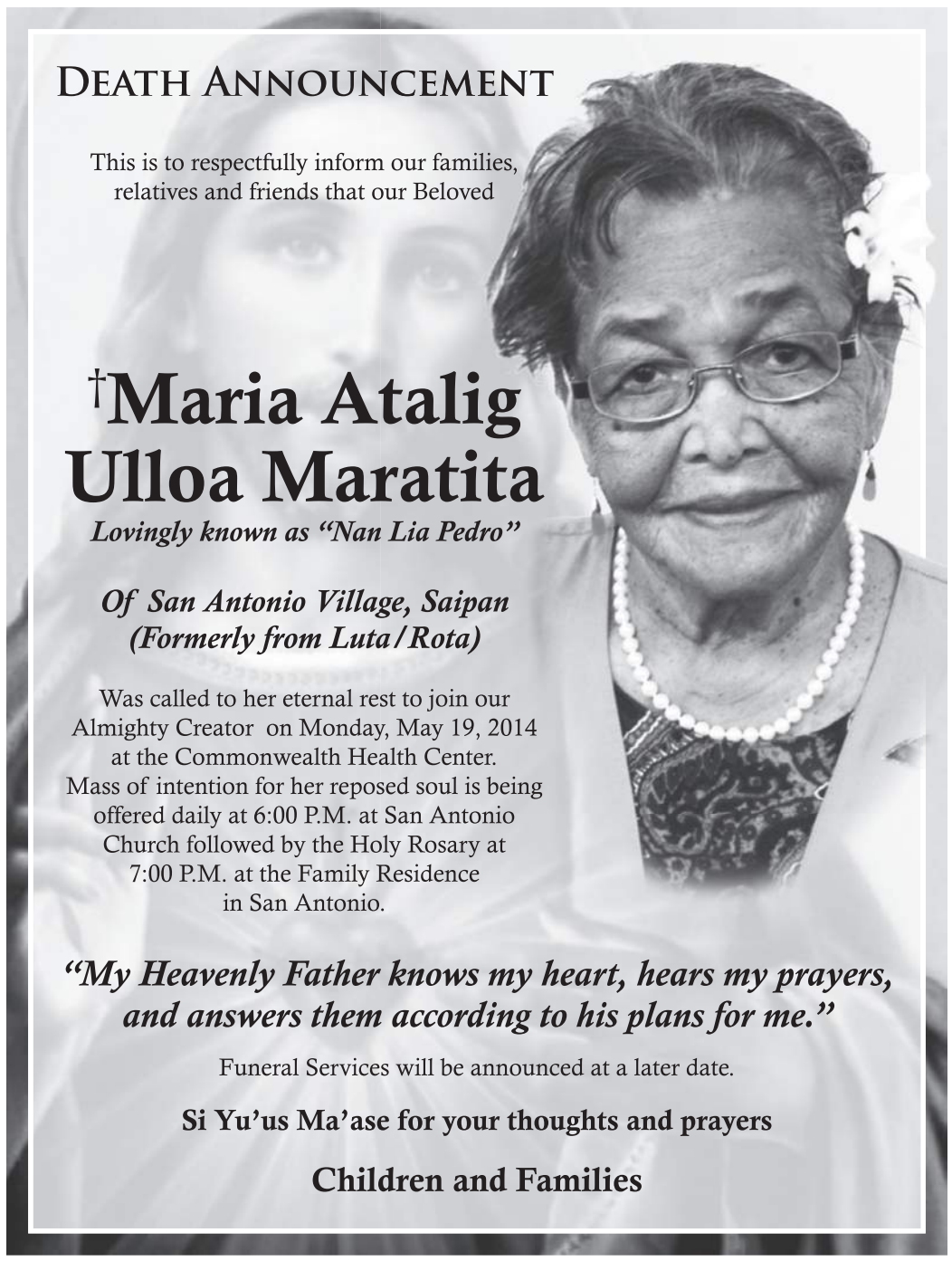
He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Nightly Mass of Intention is being celebrated at 6:00 PM at St. Jude Church.

Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014. His remains will be escorted at 7:30AM from CHC to Santa Remedios Church for viewing and last respects. Responso and Holy Rosary will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by Interment Services at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Olomwaay

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS
Annette, Winfred, children and family



DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to respectfully inform our families, relatives and friends that our Beloved

†Maria Atalig Ulloa Maratita

Lovingly known as "Nan Lia Pedro"

Of San Antonio Village, Saipan
(Formerly from Luta/Rota)

Was called to her eternal rest to join our Almighty Creator on Monday, May 19, 2014 at the Commonwealth Health Center. Mass of intention for her reposed soul is being offered daily at 6:00 P.M. at San Antonio Church followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00 P.M. at the Family Residence in San Antonio.

"My Heavenly Father knows my heart, hears my prayers, and answers them according to his plans for me."

Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your thoughts and prayers

Children and Families

Macklemore apologizes for offensive costume

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

Rapper Macklemore posted an apology on his website late Monday, saying he didn't mean to mock Jewish people by wearing a costume that some say was anti-Semitic during a performance in Seattle last week.

Macklemore wrote that he randomly chose the pieces of the costume he wore at Friday's performance so that he could disguise himself and move freely around during the secret show. He said it wasn't meant to be a caricature of a Jewish man.

"I respect all cultures and all people," he wrote. "I would never intentionally put down anybody for the fabric that makes them who they are. I love human beings, love originality, and ... happen to love a weird outfit from time to time."

Grammy Award winners Macklemore & Ryan Lewis made the appearance at the EMP Museum in their hometown to help celebrate the debut of a new exhibition.

Photos from the concert show Macklemore wearing a black wig and beard and a fake hooked nose. Macklemore and Lewis gained widespread fame with a message supporting diversity, and their hit song "One Love" calls for tolerance and support for members of the gay community.

The two performed the song at January's Grammy Awards while several same-sex couples were married, and they have been lauded for their progressive messages.

Lewis and his mother appeared on Anderson Cooper's show on CNN to talk about their HIV-AIDS charity efforts before Macklemore posted his message Monday night. In a postscript, the rapper pointed out the work of the Anti-Defamation League, providing a link to the group's website. The ADL was formed to fight anti-Semitism.

Macklemore said he understood his detractors' point of view.

"I acknowledge how the costume could, within a context of stereotyping, be ascribed to a Jewish caricature," he wrote. "I am here to say that it was not absolutely not my intention, and unfortunately at the time I did not foresee the costume to be viewed in such regard. I'm saddened that this story, or any of my choices, would lead to any form of negativity."

AP

In this photo taken May 16, 2014, Macklemore of the group Macklemore & Ryan Lewis strikes a pose as he performs "Thrift Shop" to a mob of waving fans during Vivid: Spectacle Opening Night Party at the EMP Museum in Seattle.

Carell impresses as 'Foxcatcher' debuts at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Featuring a startlingly dramatic turn from Steve Carell, Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher" premiered Monday at the Cannes Film Festival to largely rave reviews and early Oscar predictions.

"Foxcatcher" is based on the true story of Olympic gold medalist wrestler Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum). To step out from the shadow of his brother and fellow Olympian, Dave (Mark Ruffalo), Schultz moves into a wealthy benefactor's Pennsylvania estate and training facility, Foxcatcher Farm. His relationship with millionaire John du Pont, whom Carell plays with a prosthetic nose and a creepy stillness, develops into a tragic psychological drama.

"It was so far outside of his comfort zone," Miller said of Carell's performance. "I've never seen Steve do anything that would give any material evidence that he could do this. We just chatted and I heard how he thought and was thinking about the character, and I had a vision for it working."

This French Riviera festival is where many Academy Awards hopefuls debut, most recently exemplified by best-picture winner "The Artist," which premiered here in 2011. But Cannes buzz doesn't always translate to Hollywood. Last year's "Inside Llewyn Davis" was a festival hit whose momentum faded before the Oscars.

While this year's festival has already seen several films that could become award season players, including Mike Leigh's "Mr. Turner," "Foxcatcher" premiered with larger expectations—and generally met them. That reflects the fact that Miller's first two films, "Capote" and "Moneyball," both received a bundle of Oscar nominations.

"The style of this film and my other films is not so much telling a story as observing a story," Miller said.

Anticipation for "Foxcatcher" increased after its release was postponed from last year's awards season, so that Miller could spend more time finishing it. Sony Pictures Classics plans to release the film Nov. 14.

"Foxcatcher" boasts several fine performances. Tatum has never better combined his hulking physical presence with vulnerability. But Carell's non-comic turn is the most eye-catching.

"None of it felt like an acting exercise," Carell said. "It was a different experience altogether and I credit Benedict for that."

Tatum said he and Ruffalo spent at least five months training as wrestlers in preparation.

"Our life became wrestling," Ruffalo said.

The stranger-than-fiction tale easily could have drifted into melodrama, but Miller's light touch and the lead performances keep "Foxcatcher" natural. Even so, Miller described the story's combination of elite wrestling and tragedy as "bizarre."

R-Patz rates film romp with Moore

CANNES, France (AP)—Robert Pattinson is making quite a surprising reputation for himself—as the actor who has sex in cars on film.

The star plays Jerome, a chauffeur and would-be actor, in David Cronenberg's latest film "Maps to the Stars," which premiered Monday at Cannes. In it, he has a romp with the desperate Julianne Moore character in a car.

And it comes just two years after he filmed a sex scene with the 50-year-old Juliette Binoche in a limousine in Cronenberg's last film "Cosmopolis."

Quizzed by journalists on the dubious habit, he rated the respective performance of his co-stars.

"Both (are) like 7s. I'm joking. . Obviously Julianne. It was a wonderful experience. It was extremely sweaty," he said.

"It's sublime," retorted Moore, 53.

As for Cronenberg, he said the reason why he's included automotive sex scenes in his films is simple—it happens.

"There's an entire generation of Americans who have been spawned in the backseat of 1974 Fords. It's not like I invented Sex in cars. You have to remember that that part of the sexual revolution came about because of the automobile, because of the fact that young people could get away from their parents from being supervised and that was freedom," he said. "So I don't think I'm breaking any new territory when there's a scene of people having sex in cars. I mean why wouldn't you? I mean, there are so many great cars around."

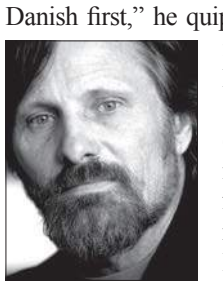
AP

Actress Julianne Moore, left, and actor Rob Pattinson laugh during a press conference for Maps to the Stars at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Monday, May 19, 2014.

Viggo Mortensen's linguistic challenge

CANNES, France (AP)—Viggo Mortensen's Cannes film "Juaja" was made by an Argentinian but partly in Danish—which presented some interesting challenges for the Danish-American actor.

"(It's) kind of strange: I would have thought it would be in Denmark where I work in Danish first," he quipped in an interview Monday.



Mortensen

In the experimental film, directed by Lisandro Alonso and written by Fabian Casas, Mortensen plays a 19th century captain searching for a mythical land in Patagonia. The actor says he chose the project because he was impressed director's previous films, including "Los Muertos" and "Liverpool."

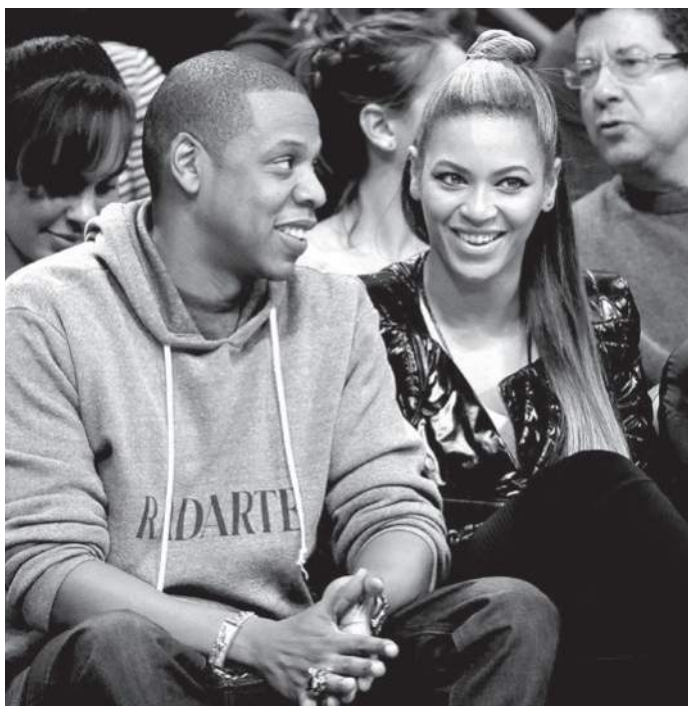
Even though Mortensen spent the first 10 years of his life in Argentina, he still needed to be careful to make sure he didn't mess up linguistically.

"It was a tall order in some ways, making sure the translation in Danish of the Argentine dialogue, Spanish dialogue, retained the poetry of Fabian's writing and the ideas behind it, you know, the sort of existential side of things, and the humor," he said.

"But it ended up being not such a hard thing and in a way it's funnier than what they wrote, because there's a particular sort of irony in Danish humor and sort of physical humor also that the Danes are really going to get—more so than other people because it's very particular," he added.

Besides acting in the film, Mortensen also did the music for it.

Beyonce, Jay Z release starry fake movie trailer



AP

This Nov. 23, 2012 file photo shows entertainers Jay Z and his wife Beyonce at the Brooklyn Nets against the Los Angeles Clippers NBA basketball game at Barclays Center in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyonce and Jay Z released a trailer for a fake movie online with guns blazing, and now fans want to see the film actually made.

Fans launched a petition Monday on Change.org to support a feature-length version of "Run." The trailer that debuted Sunday stars the superstar couple as gun-toting outlaws. It features cameos by Sean Penn, Don Cheadle and Blake Lively, among others.

The fake trailer concludes with the words "coming never."

Beyonce and Jay Z are sharing top billing for their "On the Run" concert tour that's set to begin next month in Miami.

The couple made news last week for a different video. TMZ posted footage showing a physical altercation between Jay Z and Beyonce's sister, Solange Knowles. The trio said in a statement they had "worked through" that incident.

Paul McCartney cancels Japan tour due to virus

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Paul McCartney is canceling his entire Japan tour because of illness.

The former Beatle got a virus last week and canceled several appearances, apologizing online to his fans.

Now, his organizers say he is not well enough to do any of the concerts in Japan, including the one set for Wednesday at Nippon Budokan hall, where the Beatles performed during their first Japan tour in 1966.

The official site of McCartney's "Out There Japan Tour 2014" said his doctors are ordering him "complete rest."

McCartney, 71, is still scheduled for a concert in Seoul on May 28 at Jamsil Sports Complex Main Stadium, followed by 19 U.S. performances.

In Japan, two weekend concerts in Tokyo, a makeup concert scheduled for Monday, and another in Osaka Saturday were all canceled.

Tickets are being refunded from Thursday. The most expensive tickets cost 100,000 yen ($1,000) each. Some fans traveled from out of town for the concerts. Japanese are among the world's most avid followers of Western pop music.

"I'd like to thank my Japanese fans for their love, messages of support and understanding," McCartney said in a statement. "I hope to see you all again soon. Love, Paul."

Jennifer Lopez has deal for memoir on world tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez's latest project is a story of "True Love."

The entertainer has an agreement with Penguin Group (USA) for a book, her first, about her "cathartic" 2012 world tour. The publisher announced Monday that the book will be called "True Love."

It will come out in English and Spanish and will be released through Penguin's Celebra imprint on Oct. 29.

According to Celebra, the book will be a "diary" in which Lopez confides her greatest fears and how she overcomes them.

AP

Jennifer Lopez poses in the press room with the icon award at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Bill Clinton to receive award for jazz advocacy

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton will get a chance to play his saxophone when the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz honors him with its Founder's Award.

The Monk Institute announced Monday that Clinton will receive the award at a Nov. 9 concert at Los Angeles' Dolby Theater featuring Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves, Dee Dee Bridgewater and others. The proceeds will support the institute's free jazz education programs worldwide.

Hancock, the institute's chairman, says Clinton honed "his creativity on the tenor saxophone" in public school music programs and has been "a jazz advocate for decades."

The concert will include the finals of the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition, which this year is devoted to trumpeters.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

George Harrison's guitar brings $657K at auction

NEW YORK (AP)—George Harrison's 1962 Rickenbacker guitar has sold for $657,000 at auction. Harrison purchased the guitar in 1963 at Fenton's Music store in Mount Vernon, Illinois, while visiting his sister. The Julien's Auctions sale of rock 'n' roll memorabilia was held Saturday at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. Harrison had the guitar refinished from a Fireglo red to black to match John Lennon's Rickenbacker. Other items in the sale included Lady Gaga's 1990 Red Rolls-Royce Corniche III automobile. It sold for $125,000.

Walter Isaacson to speak at publishing convention

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of best-selling biographies about Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin will give the keynote speech next week at the annual publishing convention in New York City. BookExpo America organizers announced Monday that Walter Isaacson will speak Friday, May 30. He will discuss his upcoming book, "The Innovators," in which he writes about creativity in the digital age. Tens of thousands are expected to attend BookExpo America next week at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

Wings musician Laurence Juber talks Paul McCartney

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Guitarist Laurence Juber has created a photo book about his career, highlighting the years he spent with Paul McCartney's band, Wings. "Guitar With Wings: A Photographic Memoir" will be out Tuesday from Dalton Watson Fine Books, the publisher said. The book was written by the Grammy Award-winning Juber and music historian Marshall Terrill and recounts the guitarist's five-decade career. The 250-plus page work has more than 200 previously unpublished images including Juber, McCartney and Wings, a spokesman for Juber said Monday. "Contrary to my expectations that the Wings era would be absorbed into the general arc of Paul McCartney's career, interest in the band itself has continued to flourish and I recognized that I had a unique perspective to offer," Juber said.

Film academy debuts original online short films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The organization that hands out the Oscars is making some movies of its own. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is debuting a series of documentary-style digital shorts exploring various aspects of filmmaking. The first three short films premiered online Monday. A new episode is expected each week. The inaugural shorts cover distinct themes: how blind people enjoy movies, what it's like to visit the film academy archives and how one screenwriter approaches the creative process. Produced by the film academy's in-house digital team, future episodes will feature academy members such as Paul Haggis, Kathleen Kennedy and Ava DuVernay.

Childhood sexual abuse still haunts adult survivor

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After years of carrying this guilt, I want to tell my story. It may help others.

When my grandfather tried to rape me, it was at night when everyone was asleep. I stopped him as much as a 10-year-old could. The next day he wrote me a letter saying he was sorry for what he did. It read, "If your dad finds out, it will KILL HIM." Strong words for a 10-year-old, so I buried the letter in the back yard. He never touched me again.

Five years after that, Grandpa was arrested for molesting my younger brothers. As a young girl, I didn't know men molested boys. I found out after my grandfather went to prison that he had also molested my dad and his sister when they were children.

Please warn parents to educate their children. Tell them that even someone they love does not have the right to touch them in a way that makes them uncomfortable.

My dad felt guilty for the rest of his life for what happened to us because he had let this monster back into his life. If this saves one person from the shame and guilt I have carried, it will have been worth it.

WISH I HAD TOLD IN FLORIDA

DEAR WISH YOU HAD TOLD: I agree with you about the importance of parents teaching children the difference between an appropriate touch and one that isn't, and how to set boundaries. If those boundaries are violated, children should be instructed to immediately tell an adult. If it's not a parent, then tell a teacher, counselor or school nurse, all of whom are mandated reporters. Children should also tell if a friend confides it has happened to him or her, because secrets like this are harmful not only to the victim, but also to any children in the vicinity who might also be at risk.

It may assuage your guilt to know that molesters often blackmail their victim into silence. I heard recently from a woman who said her father told her when she was a child that if she revealed what he was doing, he would kill himself. (It wasn't until many years later that she finally realized if he had, he would have been doing everyone, including her sister, a favor.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 26 and have been dating this guy I really like for three months. He is great.

My biggest setback is his body hair. He honestly has more body hair than I have ever seen. This has kept me from being physically attracted to him.

I think everything is moving in the right direction, but I don't know what to do about this issue. Should I love him how he is, or ask him to get rid of it? I don't want him to feel self-conscious because he's an awesome guy.

IN A HAIRY SITUATION IN ARIZONA

DEAR IN A HAIRY SITUATION: This is a sensitive subject, one that should be approached with as much diplomacy as you can muster. Because he seems to have everything else going for him, but the body hair is a turn-off, do talk to him about it.

Fortunately, over the past few years men have become more open to removing excessive body hair—or at least cutting it back so it's not so overwhelming. (This is called "manscaping.") There are also the options of waxing or laser treatments, if he is willing.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

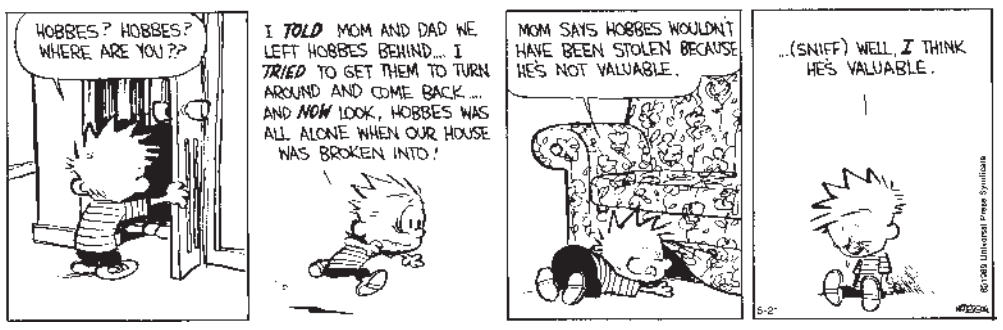
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

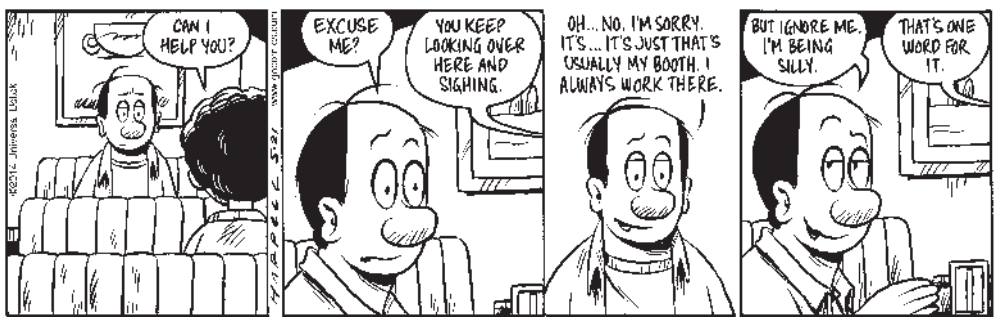

HOBBES? HOBBES? WHERE ARE YOU??
I TOLD MOM AND DAD WE LEFT HOBBES BEHIND.... I TRIED TO GET THEM TO TURN AROUND AND COME BACK.... AND NOW LOOK, HOBBES WAS ALL ALONE WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO!
MOM SAYS HOBBES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN BECAUSE HE'S NOT VALUABLE.
...(SNIFF) WELL, I THINK HE'S VALUABLE.
5-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

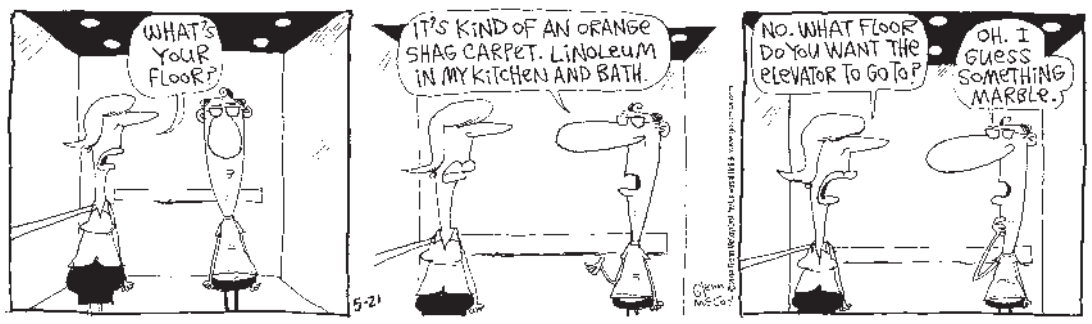
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN I HELP YOU?
EXCUSE ME?
YOU KEEP LOOKING OVER HERE AND SIGHING.
OH... NO. I'M SORRY. IT'S... IT'S JUST THAT'S USUALLY MY BOOTH. I ALWAYS WORK THERE.
BUT IGNORE ME. I'M BEING SILLY.
THAT'S ONE WORD FOR IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT'S YOUR FLOOR?
5-21
IT'S KIND OF AN ORANGE SHAG CARPET. LINOLEUM IN MY KITCHEN AND BATH.
NO. WHAT FLOOR DO YOU WANT THE ELEVATOR TO GO TO?
OH. I GUESS SOMETHING MARBLE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

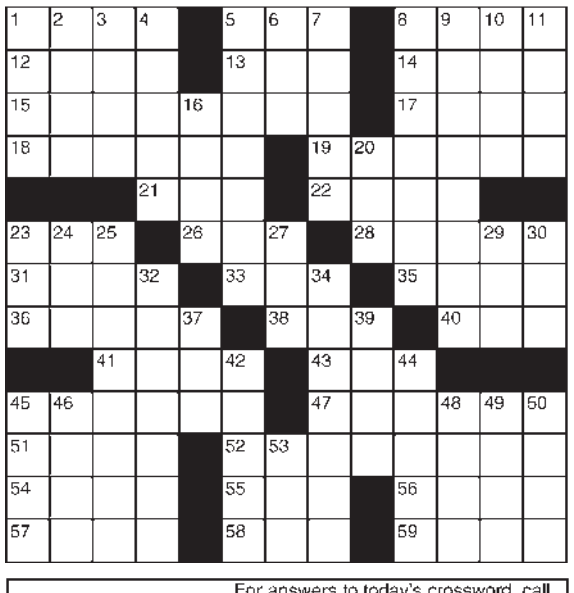
ACROSS
1 Lumber
5 Gear tooth
8 "Dilbert" intern
12 Advantage
13 Have bills
14 "GWTW" acreage
15 Private's boss
17 Persia, now
18 Tire patterns
19 Knot
21 Perch
22 Gymnast Korbut
23 Commercials
26 Conger, e.g.
28 Journalist Joseph
31 Nitwit
33 Scepter
35 Slave to crosswords?
36 Knapsack part
38 Charlotte's construct
40 Rowing tool
41 Glitzy rock genre
43 Bro's relative
45 Off the boat
47 Whole
51 Dazzle
52 Of operations
54 Baserunner's goal
55 Bygone flier
56 Bottle part
57 Simple
58 "Of course"
59 Uno, dos, —

DOWN
1 Into the sunset
2 River to the Baltic
3 Shrek, for one
4 "Ballet Rehearsal" painter
5 Tabletop protector
6 Possess
7 Reach
8 Goose-fleshy
9 Seaweed-rich sea
10 Exam format
11 Welles role
16 Brickell or Adams
20 Carte intro
23 Tummy muscles
24 Speck
25 Durra and milo, e.g.
27 Depressed
29 — budget
30 Apiece
32 "Hogwash!"
34 Abandons
37 Links standard
39 Bob's pal
42 Disarrayed
44 Time spent at a job
45 Arthur of tennis
46 Old portico
48 Bakery worker, at times
49 "The Amazing —"
50 Benevolent order
53 Work with

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	P	O	D	■	B	A	R	■	H	A	I	L
C	L	U	E	■	I	C	E	■	E	R	G	O
H	E	R	M	E	T	I	C	■	R	I	O	S
Y	D	S	■	X	E	D	■	S	V	A	R	T
■	■	■	H	A	S	■	L	E	I	■	■	■
S	A	L	E	M	■	S	I	X	T	E	E	N
O	M	A	H	■	Z	A	P	■	A	I	H	E
N	I	B	B	L	E	D	■	A	G	N	E	W
■	■	■	I	A	N	■	L	I	E	■	■	■
G	R	A	V	Y	■	L	A	M	■	W	H	O
L	I	D	O	■	H	E	R	S	C	H	E	L
A	G	A	R	■	F	G	G	■	P	A	I	F
D	A	M	E	■	W	O	O	■	A	M	P	S

Yesterday's answer 5-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuza Balk, 40; Lisa Edelstein, 48; Nick Cassavetes, 55; Judge Reinhold, 57

Happy Birthday: Gauge what you want to accomplish this year. Stay within your budget and capabilities and refuse to let anyone convince you otherwise. Take control and be the master of your destiny. Use your intelligence and keen perception to get the results you need to feel accomplished and well positioned. Believe in yourself and success will be yours. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 27, 32, 34, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be eager to make changes but are best to take a closer look at all the variables involved before you commit to anything that may limit you in the future. A heart-to-heart talk with someone you respect will ease your mind. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Share your thoughts and discuss your plans, and you will receive an interesting tip that will help you make an important decision. An emotional situation must not be allowed to trigger a poor choice. Listen to reason. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to facts and offer information readily. Controlling a situation before it spins out of control will alleviate complaints and false accusations that can be damaging to your position and reputation. A secret dealing will be questioned. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Problems will arise if you are too involved or meddle in other people's problems. Getting along and keeping the peace will be required if you don't want to face personal loss. A creative project is the best place to channel your energy. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put play first. Make time for activities that get you moving, or emotionally and physically stimulate you. Plan your next vacation or sign up for a course that will add to your skills or help you make new friends. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a step back and listen and learn. Observation will be your most valuable quality. Emotional deception is apparent and must be continually monitored to help you avoid making a poor choice. Strive for stability, not popularity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Embrace everything new and exciting. A change may be in order, but you must be the one to instigate it if you want it to work to your benefit. Don't let others make decisions for you. Stay in control and be ready to make your move. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make positive changes and you will ease your stress and open up new opportunities to learn and forge ahead with optimism. A little mystery and imagination will lead to victory. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Look forward and make your choices based on what you see unfolding in the future. Living in the past or holding on to something that is destined to become obsolete will be your downfall. Romance will give you a boost. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Problems while traveling or while dealing with authority figures, friends or relatives will surface. Be careful not to meddle or to let anyone infringe on your privacy. Take care of any disruption or uncertainty before it's too late to do anything about it. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got everything going for you, so don't feel the need to depend upon others. Someone may try to lean on you or make you feel like you don't have what it takes to go it alone. Believe in your abilities. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let a charmer convince you to do something that isn't going to benefit you. Step back and look at all the choices you have. Choose the direction that will allow you to remain in control of your destiny. Follow your intuition. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic and adventuresome. You are a go-getter and a flirt.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	5				6	7	
4			8		6			9
3			9					5
7			4					3
	6	3				7	9	
5			7					2
8			6					1
6			3		8			7
	2	9				8	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	2	4	7	1	3	6	8
1	6	7	5	3	8	9	4	2
4	8	3	2	6	9	1	7	5
7	1	6	8	5	4	2	3	9
5	4	8	3	9	2	6	1	7
3	2	9	7	1	6	5	8	4
8	9	4	6	2	3	7	5	1
2	3	5	1	4	7	8	9	6
6	7	1	9	8	5	4	2	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROBED MONKS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	H	C	N	R	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	S
U	H	U	E	E	E	N	E	C	I	T	C	A	R	P
C	B	U	M	N	R	D	O	B	E	G	G	A	R	I
U	R	E	R	I	O	H	R	C	N	D	N	A	A	R
L	D	O	N	C	L	B	T	O	A	O	Y	N	T	I
A	D	A	S	E	H	I	I	E	I	E	C	H	R	T
K	I	N	E	S	D	T	T	T	R	I	D	E	A	U
A	V	F	E	L	A	I	A	Y	E	B	C	R	P	A
O	I	S	O	R	L	G	C	N	R	L	E	M	P	L
L	N	V	E	E	E	V	T	T	U	O	O	I	I	F
C	E	B	M	R	O	V	T	S	I	N	I	T	S	R
L	I	R	G	O	V	I	E	E	K	Ⓝ	V	R	T	I
L	A	N	A	B	B	E	Y	R	O	N	Ⓔ	O	P	A
C	O	M	U	E	T	A	C	I	D	E	D	Ⓩ	W	R
C	Y	R	A	T	N	U	L	O	V	A	L	U	E	S

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Abbey, Ancient, Beggar, Benedictine, Brethren, Carmelite, Cenobite, Church, Cloak, Congregation, Cross, Cucula, Deacons, Dedicate, Divine, Friars, Hermit, Humility, Lama, Lead, Liberation, Life, Love, Monk, Order, Practice, Prayer, Priory, Recluse, Rest, Reverend, Robe, Scripture, Serve, Spiritual, Trappist, Tunic, Values, Voluntary, Vows, Zen

Yesterday's Answer: Purses

Treasury 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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---

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel: 233-7777.

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WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS

2-3 years experience as a waitress in a night bar or an entertainment business.

(3) SINGERS

3-5 years experience in a karaoke bar or in an entertainment business.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $5.55/hr.
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

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dba: CLUB MICRONESIA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) WAITRESS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2-3 years experience as a waitress in a night bar or an entertainment business.
- Full time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $5.55/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

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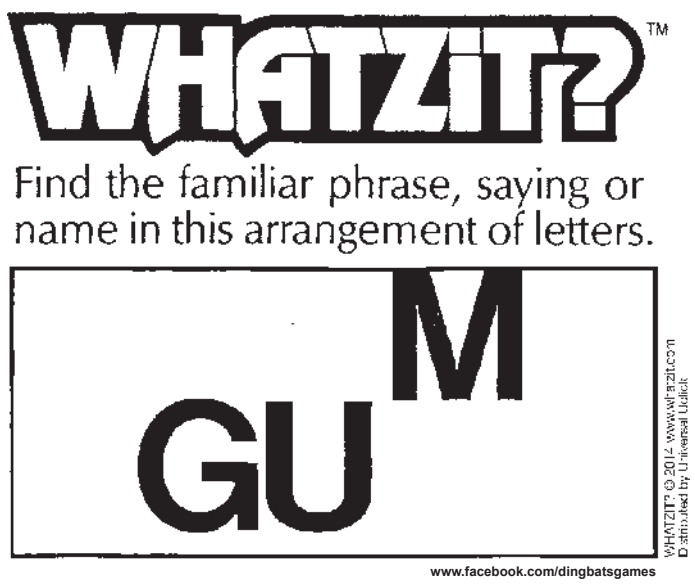
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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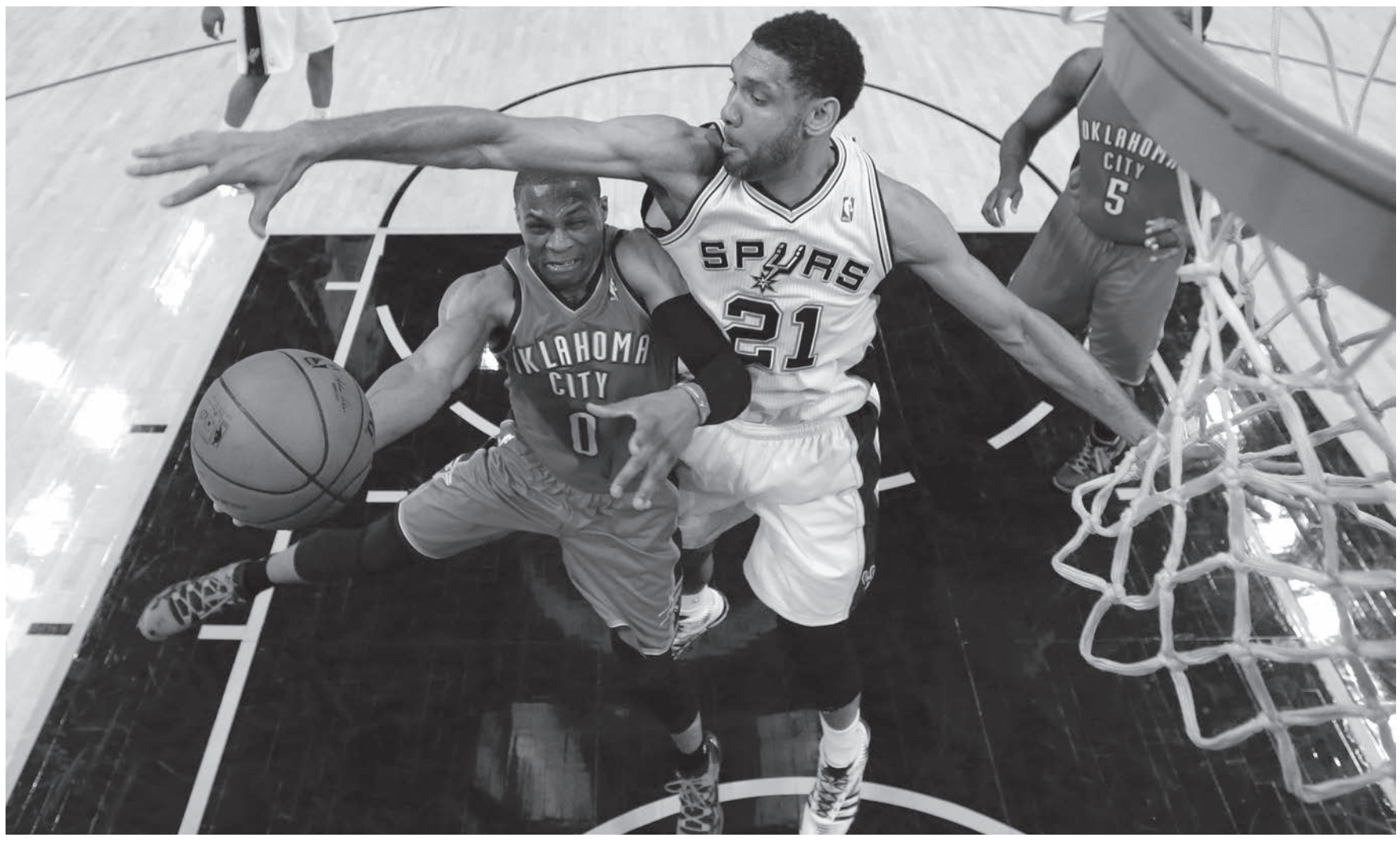
Duncan helps Spurs rout Thunder in series opener



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook (0) is defended by San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) as he drives to the basket during the first half of Game 1 of a Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, May 19, 2014, in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs were planning to attack the lane whether Oklahoma City big man Serge Ibaka was playing or not. The fact that the Thunder's athletic defender was absent only made things easier for them.

Tim Duncan scored 27 points and San Antonio took advantage of Ibaka's absence to dominate the paint, beating the Oklahoma City 122-105 on Monday night in the opener of the Western Conference finals.

Tony Parker did not appear limited by a hamstring injury, scoring 14 points and having 12 assists in 36 minutes.

"We always want to try to penetrate," Parker said. "We always want our ball movement, that's how we play—kick and pitch and stuff like that. You know, obviously it's a little bit better with (Ibaka) not being in the paint, but we're still going to try to penetrate and make stuff happen."

The Thunder got their usual offensive outputs from All-Stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, who scored 28 and 25 points respectively. But Oklahoma City's remaining starters, Nick Collison, Thabo Sefolosha and Kendrick Perkins, combined to score five points with 13 rebounds and one assist.

But it was defensively were the Thunder struggled without Ibaka, who will miss the remainder of the postseason after suffering a calf injury in Oklahoma City's series clincher against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Spurs had 66 points in the paint and shot 58 percent from the field. It was the highest shooting percentage allowed by the Thunder in the postseason since relocating from Seattle.

"We're a no-excuse team," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "Serge is out. He's not coming back. We have to play better. We have to play better. If we expect to beat one of the best teams in basketball, and a very good offensive team, we have to play and we're not going to make an excuse."

The Spurs fed Duncan early with Ibaka out, and the veteran responded by shooting 6 for 7 in scoring 12 points in the opening quarter.

Parker, who suffered a Grade 1 left hamstring strain in San Antonio's series clincher against Portland, drove the paint and dished to Duncan early before looking for his own shot midway through the quarter.

"That's part of our game plan," Duncan said. "He knew that they weren't going to let him shoot the ball like he did in the last series. They were going to try to take that away from him, so he knew he was going to have to be an assist man."

Parker scored all but two of his points in the first half as the Spurs beat the Thunder for the first time this season.

Even though San Antonio improved to 7-1 at home in the playoffs, winning their past five games by an average of 20.6 points, Monday's victory was not easy.

The Spurs also still remember what happened in the 2012 conference finals, when the Thunder won four straight to rally from an 0-2 deficit.

"We knew that we have to play our best game to compete against them, and I think it's great to have an appropriate fear," Parker said. "They played great against us in 2012, and we know that we have to be perfect. They're younger than us and more athletic, and so we have to be more perfect."

San Antonio played nearly perfectly offensively and still rallied to take a 76-75 lead on Westbrook's 17-foot jumper with 5 minutes left in the third quarter.

"We don't believe in moral victories," Durant said. "Third quarter was obviously our best quarter, but we didn't close it out well. It's Game 1, we've got to make adjustments and be better for the next game. We're not taking no moral victories out of it."

Despite missing his first four shots, Westbrook continued to bull his way into the lane and it paid off as the game wore on.

Westbrook had 12 points in the third quarter, continually driving past Parker and the Spurs before they could settle in defensively.

With the exception of a pair of free throws by Derek Fisher, Westbrook and Durant scored all of Oklahoma City's points in a 23-22 third quarter.

The extended efforts exerted by the Thunder's two All-Stars eventually took a toll, especially with the Spurs bench coming to life. Westbrook and Durant were limited to seven points in the final quarter.

Durant and Westbrook were a combined 19 for 40. Durant was 1 for 4 in the fourth quarter.

"That's the key with Kevin," Popovich said. "You're obviously not going to stop him, but making him work hard is certainly the plan. It's everybody's plan, no matter who he plays against, they're going to make him work hard. I thought Kawhi was good, didn't foul, but I think the team did a nice job behind him, helping him."

NBA charges Sterling, sets up June 3 hearing

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA charged Donald Sterling on Monday with damaging the league and its teams with his racist comments, setting up a June 3 hearing after which owners could vote to terminate his ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The league also said the banned owner has engaged in other conduct that has impaired its relationship with fans and merchandising partners.

"All of these acts provide grounds for termination under several provisions of the NBA constitution and related agreements," the league said in a statement.

Sterling was banned for life and fined $2.5 million by Commissioner Adam Silver after the release of a recording in which he made racist remarks. He has until May 27 to respond to the charge, and the right to appear at the hearing and make a presentation before the board of governors. He has the right to a lawyer at the hearing, but strict courtroom rules of evidence would not apply.

Sterling's attorney, Maxwell Blecher, asked for a three-month delay in response to the charge, a person with knowledge of the situation said, confirming a report by SI.com. The league will not grant it, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no official comments were authorized.

Minnesota Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor, the board chairman, will preside over the hearing in New York, which is planned for two days before the start of the NBA Finals. If three-fourths of the other 29 owners vote to sustain the charge, Sterling will be forced to sell the team he has owned since 1981.

Silver has said he is confident he has the 23 votes that are necessary.

Sterling told a female friend, V. Stiviano, not to bring blacks to Clippers games during their conversation that was recorded. Sterling specifically mentioned Magic Johnson, then criticized the NBA Hall of Famer again as a poor role model during a recent interview with CNN.

"Among other things, Mr. Sterling disparaged African-Americans and `minorities'; directed a female acquaintance not to associate publicly with African-Americans or to bring African-Americans to Clippers games; and criticized African-Americans for not supporting their communities," the NBA said.

The league also charged Sterling with destroying evidence and providing false and misleading evidence to the NBA investigator, and said the Clippers issued a false and misleading media statement about the matter. It also cited "a failure to use best efforts to see to it that the sport of professional basketball is conducted according to the highest moral and ethical standards."

Article 13 of the NBA's constitution, which deals with termination of ownership, states that one condition is if an owner fails or refuses "to fulfill its contractual obligations to the Association, its members, players, or any other third party in such a way as to affect the Association or its members adversely."

A number of sponsors suspended their deals with the Clippers in the wake of Sterling's remarks, potentially hurting league revenues, and players have said they would consider refusing to play next season if he still owned the team.

"Mr. Sterling's actions and positions significantly undermine the NBA's efforts to promote diversity and inclusion; damage the NBA's relationship with its fans; harm NBA owners, players and Clippers team personnel; and impair the NBA's relationship with marketing and merchandising partners, as well as with government and community leaders," the league said.

If Sterling did not respond to the charge within five business days, or does not appear at the hearing, it would be deemed an admission of the "total validity of the charges as presented," according to the constitution.

But even the players who want him out believe Sterling will fight, and his attorney sent a letter to the league last week informing it that Sterling wouldn't be paying the fine.

A message on the office voicemail of Blecher said he would have no comment now.

Sterling's estranged wife, Shelly, has said she will fight to keep her 50 percent share of the team even if Donald Sterling is forced to sell, but the league said in its statement that "all ownership interests in the Clippers will be terminated" if the charge is upheld.

Shelly Sterling's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, said he was reviewing the charges.

"Based on our initial assessment, we continue to believe there is no lawful basis for stripping Shelly Sterling of her 50 percent ownership interest in the Clippers," O'Donnell said in a statement Monday. "She is the innocent estranged spouse. We also continue to hope that we can resolve this dispute with the NBA for the good of all constituencies."

Brantley's homer in 10th beats Tigers, 5-4

CLEVELAND (AP) — Michael Brantley homered with two outs in the 10th inning off Al Alburquerque, giving the Cleveland Indians a 5-4 win over the drowsy Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

Brantley connected on a 3-2 pitch from Alburquerque (1-1), driving it into the Tigers' bullpen to end Cleveland's four-game losing streak.

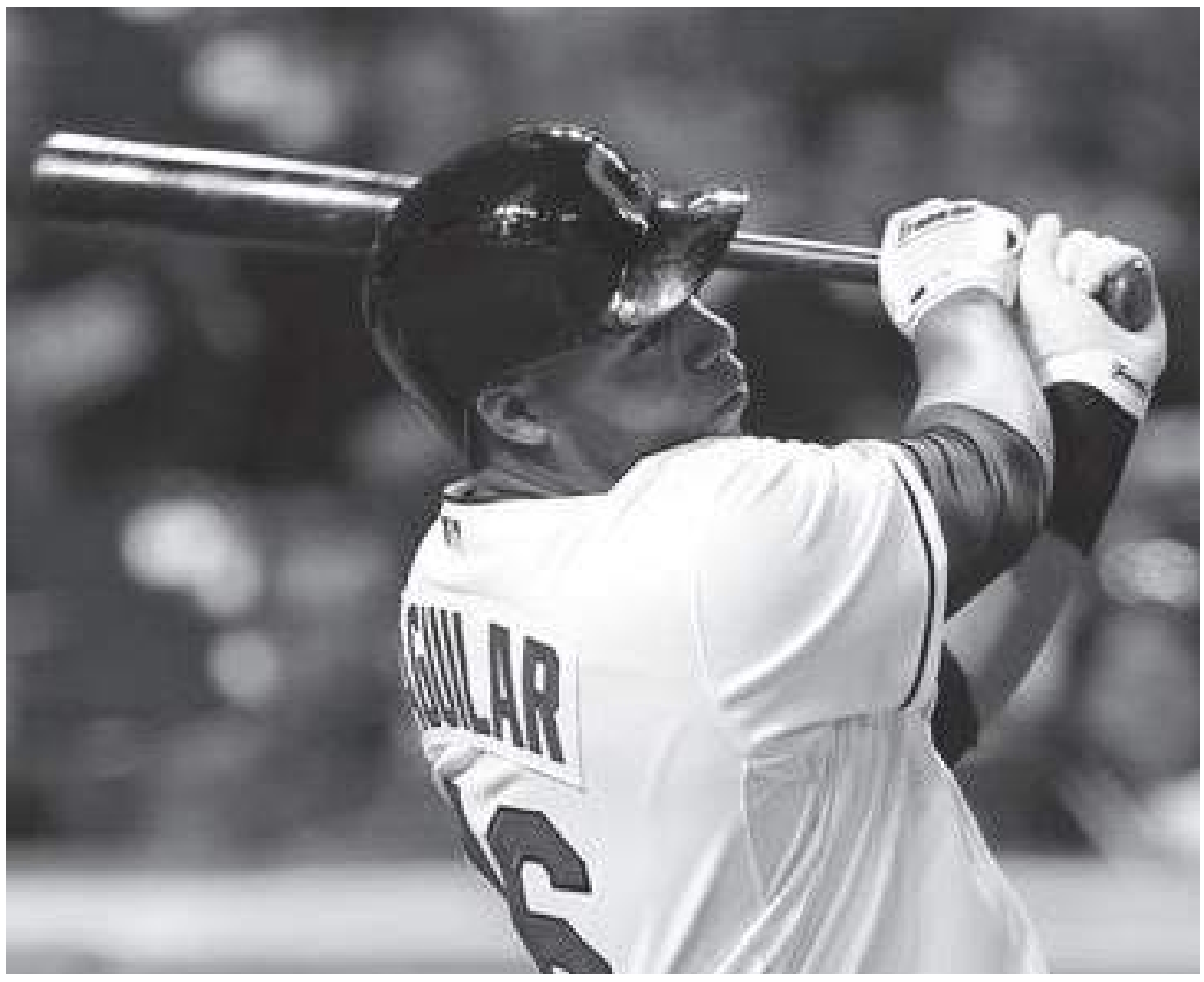
Scott Atchison (1-0) pitched a perfect 10th, retiring Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez for the first two outs.

Detroit's J.D. Martinez hit a pinch-hit homer in the ninth to tie it 4-all, but the Tigers couldn't muster more magic in extra innings.

The Tigers, who arrived just three hours before the first pitch because of travel delays from Boston, had their 11-game road winning streak ended.

Rookie Jesus Aguilar had two RBIs for the Indians, outscored 30-6 while being swept by Oakland last weekend.

Martinez hit his 11th homer for the Tigers.



AP

Cleveland Indians' Jesus Aguilar hits a sacrifice fly off Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Phil Coke in the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 19, 2014, in Cleveland.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Alexei Ramirez homered and drove in four runs as Chicago climbed out of a five-run hole before holding on for a wild win over Kansas City.

Zach Putnam (2-0) worked two shutout innings in relief of Scott Carroll, and Ronald Belisario also threw two scoreless innings before Scott Downs and Jake Petricka bailed out Matt Lindstrom.

Lindstrom, normally the White Sox closer, gave up a leadoff single to Nori Aoki in the ninth, then appeared to hurt his foot fielding a sacrifice bunt by Alcides Escobar that resulted in an error. Downs entered and struck out Eric Hosmer, then Petricka picked off pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson at second base before getting Billy Butler on a groundout for his first save.

Jason Vargas (4-2) squandered the rare five-run lead the Royals' pop-gun offense gave him. He allowed all seven White Sox runs in 4 2-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Astros 5, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Dallas Keuchel came within one out of his second consecutive shutout as Houston beat Los Angeles for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Jason Castro and Matt Dominguez drove in runs during a three-run first inning for the Astros, who got 10 hits off Garrett Richards (4-1) in the opener of a 10-game road trip.

Keuchel (5-2) followed up his first career shutout with another gem, yielding five hits and striking out eight. He didn't allow a runner past second base until the ninth, when manager Bo Porter pulled him after two-out infield singles by Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

Howie Kendrick followed with a two-run triple off Josh Zeid, who got C.J. Cron on a grounder to end the Angels' third loss in 11 games.

Dexter Fowler and Chris Carter also drove in runs for the Astros (17-28), who still have the AL's worst record despite six wins in their last eight games.

Braves 9, Brewers 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman and Justin Upton homered to help Mike Minor win his second consecutive start in Atlanta's victory over Milwaukee.

Pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit also went deep for the Braves in a matchup of first-place teams.

Atlanta began the night with the fewest runs in the majors. But the Braves banged out 15 hits and improved to 18-5 when hitting a home run.

Minor (2-2) gave up two runs and five hits with five strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings.

Ryan Braun and Khris Davis homered for the Brewers, who have lost three straight. Braun also threw out a runner at the plate from right field.

Wily Peralta (4-3) allowed nine hits and three runs—two earned—in five innings.

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke put in first baseman Lyle Overbay to pitch late in the game. Overbay got the final out in Atlanta's five-run eighth.

Reds 4, Nationals 3, 15 innings

In Washington, Todd Frazier's two-run homer in the 15th inning lifted Cincinnati over Washington.

Brandon Phillips singled off Ross Detwiler (0-2) to open the inning and, with one out, Frazier homered to center. The drive ended a scoreless streak of 27 2-3 innings by the Nationals' bullpen.

Logan Ondrusek (1-2) worked two innings for the win, allowing an RBI single to Greg Dobbs in the bottom of the 15th before getting Danny Espinosa to fly out to deep right to end the 4-hour, 58-minute game.

The Reds' defense twice extended the game with two-out diving catches that prevented the winning run from scoring.

Phillips robbed Wilson Ramos behind second base with a runner on third to end the 11th. Billy Hamilton's diving grab in right-center of Anthony Rendon's liner sent the game to the 15th.

Espinosa doubled off Aroldis Chapman to start the ninth and scored on a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Scott Hairston. That rally cost Reds starter Mike Leake his first win since April 15.

Stephen Strasburg went seven innings for Washington, allowing two runs and six hits.

The Reds were 2 for 24 with runners in scoring position, and the Nationals went 2 for 18.

Woods: Surgery erased doubts; no date for return

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Tiger Woods still doesn't know when he'll return. For a while, he didn't know whether he would return at all.

Woods said Monday his back injury became so debilitating this year it caused him to doubt his ability to play golf again.

"Forget about playing golf at the highest level. I couldn't get out of bed," Woods said. "I was certainly doubtful at that point. What's it going to feel like? Am I going to be pain free? Am I going to be able to actually do this again, where I can to get out of bed, and go out there and play with my kids and play golf? All those things were up in the air."

Woods said the doubt was erased after microdiscectomy surgery March 31. He said the procedure, which relieved pain from a pinched nerve, provided immediate relief, although he said there's still "no timetable" for his return to golf - or even for taking a full swing. As of now, he remains limited to chipping and putting.

"It's not going to be up to me whether I play or not, it's going to be up to my docs," Woods said. "Obviously, I want to play now."

Speaking at Congressional Country Club in his role as host of next month's Quicken Loans National, Woods even joked that he wished he could join reporters on the course for their media day rounds—"even though I don't like to play with you guys."

But he offered no hint that he might be anything more than an onlooker for the Quicken Loans tournament on June 26-29—or at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst two weeks earlier. He's already missed the Masters for the first time.

To hear Woods, known for unyielding resolve, give voice to doubts is certainly unusual. But this injury is different from those he has endured before. He said rehab has been tedious and it's a challenge simply not to join in when his children want to play sports.

AP

Golfer Tiger Woods speaks at a Quicken Loans National PGA tournament media day news conference at Congressional Country Club, Monday, May 19, 2014, in Bethesda, Md.

"I'll tell you what," he said, "I am damn good at video games."

When Woods does return, he'll resume his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major victories. Woods, 38, sounded as if the surgery has given him a new lease to keep playing for a good while.

"I would like to, as all athletes, go out on my own terms," Woods said. "And ultimately I want to continue playing at an elite level as long as I deem I want to do it. For some guys it's in their 60s and 70s, and other guys it's in their 40s and 50s.

"But prior to the surgery, I didn't think I would have much of a playing career if I felt like this. ... Now that I've had the procedure, I'm excited about what the prospects hold, and if I'm able to feel this way, I'm excited about my career. I'm able to do what I want to do for as long as I want to."

San Antonio, Pelicans pummel foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Antonio earned its second straight win after hammering Docomo Pacific, 103-74, in the second match in the 2014 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League after last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

San Antonio had too much firepower and fresher legs against Docomo to remain undefeated in two games and win its early rematch against the latter. Docomo downed San Antonio in last year's finals, 72-69.

In their first meeting since last December's title clash, San Antonio came out smoking, consistently scoring 20-plus in three quarters and exploding for 30 in the third. San Antonio had an even distribution of points in all periods, making it hard for Docomo's defense to determine which player to contain.

Four players finished in double figures for San Antonio, while five others nailed at least six markers each. Bryle Alegre and Emerson Feria top-scored for San Antonio with 15 points apiece, Kobe Mendoza added 12, and Erick Dela Rosa contributed 10. Five more San Antonio players combined for 37 points.

As for Docomo's side, only three players played solid offense with James Villacrusis bagging 18 points and big men Juan Camacho and Bruce Berline chipping in 17 and 14, respectively. Docomo fell behind after the first period, 17-24, and was down by 15 at the break, 32-32. San Antonio's 30-point output in the third broke the game wide open, 77-50.

In the second game, the Pelicans turned on the heat in the fourth quarter to route Olivos Team.

The Pelicans were ahead by only 5 at the end of the third period, 56-51, when their younger and faster crew went on a run-and-gun mode to wallop the veteran crew of Olivos Team.

Jason Lampkin led the fourth-quarter assault, scoring 10 of his 19 points in the payoff canto, while Wens Namelo and Jessie Santos combined for 17, outscoring the entire Olivos Team, which had only 13 markers in the pivotal fourth.

With the win, the Pelicans bounced back from their debut loss to San Antonio, while Olivos Team dropped to a 0-2 record.

Meanwhile, TBK downed Saplan Boyz in last Thursday's first game, 92-80, while Shocker National pounded Maplas, 86-59.

First Game

Pelicans 89 – Santos 24, Lampkin 19, Camacho 16, Brennan 12, Galarse 12, Namelo 11.

Olivos Team 64 – Moises 18, Barrios 14, Aquino 14, Mina 8, Camacho 6, Ebuen 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-19, 42-42, 56-51, 89-64.

Second Game

San Antonio 103 – Alegre 15, Feria 15, Mendoza 12, Dela Rosa 10, Arciaga 9, De Guzman 9, Fidelino 7, Factor 6, Mariano 4, Espinosa 4.

Docomo Pacific 74 – Villacrusis 18, Camacho 17, Berline 14, Sison 8, Sanciangco 7, Gomez 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-17, 47-32, 77-50, 103-74.

SEEDED

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oust the host's Amami Sakano, 6-1, 6-1. Calloud recorded the second 6-0, 6-0 win in the upper half bracket, dominating CNMI's Vincent Tudela, while Lam and Romualdez also notched straight set victories against qualifier Yuki Watanabe of Japan, 6-4, 6-2, and the CNMI's Jake Lee, 6-2, 6-4, respectively. Kafataris, who was a lucky loser despite bowing in the qualifying tournament, registered the only three-set win in the top half of the draw, outlasting fellow lucky loser Eikoh Hayashi, 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-2. Kafataris and Hayashi made it to the main draw after two players pulled out of the competition.

At the bottom half of the draw, the second-ranked Taisei Miyamoto coasted to a 6-1, 6-2 win over the CNMI's Tommy Choi. The seven other opening round matches in the lower bracket also ended after only two sets.

The No. 3 pick Chak Yin Chan of Hong Kong made short work of Joshua Ecalnir of Australia, 6-1, 6-2, while sixth-ranked Kody Pearson also of Australia downed Thailand's Itchya Meesommon in similar scores. Unseeded Wai Leuk Alan Lee of Hong Kong and Indonesia's Steven Harianto Peodji swept their foes, too, prevailing against the CNMI's Michael Ren, 6-0, 6-1, and Hong Kong's Kai Wui Wesley Law, 6-4, 6-3, respectively. Qualifier Yohan Sung of South Korea soldiered on, following a 6-4, 6-1 triumph over Hong Kong's Cheuk Yin Yuen, while No. 8 Bernard Bruno Nkomba of Australia downed the CNMI's Luther Lizama, 6-1, 6-1.

Lizama was the eighth CNMI player to bow out of the competition, leaving Colin Ramsey the only survivor from the host country in the first round. Ramsey drilled a 7-5, 6-3 victory in the first round against fellow CNMI bet Seiya Eda to arrange a second round meeting against the third-ranked Chan.

Upset in girls singles

Meanwhile, the unseeded Sing-Le Fan Chiang of Chinese-Taipei earned the biggest win in the girls U18 singles after pulling off a stunner against the second-ranked Yuri Katano of Japan, 6-0, 6-1.

With the upset, Chiang set up a second round duel against Palau's Ayana Rengiil, who slipped past the CNMI's Negahr Rastguiy, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Other second round pairings at the bottom half of the draw are Japan's Hiraku Sato against Nanaka, Takeuchi and the Philippines Maria Dominuque Ong versus Japan's Azusa Yasaki. The No. 6 pick Ong walloped the CNMI's Grace Choi, 6-0, 6-0, for a second round showdown against Yasaki, who eliminated Hong Kong's Chak Lam Chan, 6-2, 6-1. Sato eased past the CNMI's Mimi Sakanop, 6-0, 6-0, for a date against the fourth-seeded Takeuchi, who triumphed over Thailand's Gorbua Srisirisukpayok, 6-0, 6-3. Japanese qualifier Ayumi Hirata also booked a second round ticket, following a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the CNMI's Tammy Ackerman and will be pitted against the winner between the No. 8 seed Alvina Lai of Hong Kong and Australia's Millie Khoury. Khoury and Lai played the last game in the bottom half of the draw and results were unavailable at press time,

At the top half, No. 1 seed Yinglak Jittakoat had no problems ousting lucky loser Maine Hiramatsu, 6-1, 6-2, for a second round clash against qualifier Yuri Takanishi, who eliminated wild card bet Kwan Wun Man of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-3.

Another Hong Kong wild card entry, Venia Yeung, survived the first round after downing the CNMI's Mikayla Lopez, 6-4, 6-0. Yeung collides with No. 7 Kanako Ota today after the latter blanked Guam's Nadine Del Carmen, 6-0, 6-0.

Completing the second round pairings are Japan's Ayano Shimizu versus compatriot Yuna Fukumuro and Hong Kong's Yuen Tung Liu against Australia's Gabriella Da Silva Fick. The third-ranked Shimizu swept India's Nairuti Vyas, 6-1, 6-1, while Fukumuro booted out the CNMI's Ami Tsukagishi, 6-0, 6-2. Fick pulled off a 1-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over wild card entry and Japan's Azumi Kanazawa, while Liu defeated the host's Julia Ishikawa, 6-1, 6-0.

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second straight championship, as they also won the 2013 finals against the Fielders. Harry Nakamura made the winning hit, as he came off the bench to replace Vince Cepeda at the top of the batting order at the bottom of the ninth and last inning and blasted a grounder. The ball headed in front of Yankees closer Franco Flores, but he missed it, while shortstop A.J. Lizama tried to dive in to pick up the leather near second base and also faltered. Finally, Yankees second baseman Tom Joab secured the ball, however the two early defensive boo-boos allowed Byron Kaipat to score the winning run.

Besides recording the winning run, Kaipat earlier nailed an RBI single to bring home pinch runner John Taitano and even up the count, 9-all, with one out. Brewers leadoff batter Roy Celis was called for a strikeout and the Yankees moved one out away from sending Game 4 to extra inning and boosting their chances to force a deciding Game 5 when third batter Manny Sablan flied out to center field and Taitano, who pinched run for the injured Nokki Saralu (hit by pitch), at third. However, the Yankees failed to get the last out, as Flores ended up giving back-to-back singles to Kaipat and Nakamura with the latter helping Taitano reach for the dagger.

The Brewers pulled off the close win despite trailing by three, 6-9, at the top of the seventh inning and losing a 6-4 advantage after six innings. The back-to-back champions scored two runs in the first inning off the Yankees' errors and four earned runs in the fourth to grab the lead, 6-3. Jun Rabauliman, Diego Camacho, and Saralu had RBI singles at the bottom of the fourth, while Sablan recorded a sacrifice fly. The Yankees, on the other hand got their first three runs off Brian Camacho's RBI single in the second and two more RBI singles from Lizama and Gary Cruz. Camacho also had an RBI single in the fourth to move the 2012 champions within two and they stole the driver's seat at the top of the seventh after racking up five runs and shutting down the Brewers in the fifth and sixth. Chris Camacho converted a two-run single at the top seventh, Brian Camacho gained this third RBI single and also stole home, while Joab reached off a sacrifice out from catcher Pat Alepuyo.

At the bottom of the seventh, Manny Sablan kept the Brewers' title hopes alive when he hit a two-run single that sliced the deficit to one, 8-9. The Yankees clung to the shaky lead after eight innings, as neither team scored. At the top of the ninth, the Yankees were called for a 1-2-3 play with Roy Celis striking out leadoff batter Brian Camacho and Chris Camacho and Joab going out on a 6-3 putout play and fly ball at home plate, respectively. The Yankees eventually lost the precarious lead in the last inning after failing to make the needed defensive stops.

The Game 4 loss came after the Yankees squeezed out a 5-3 victory in Game 3 last Wednesday. The Brewers took the first two matches in the series, winning Game 1 by three runs, 5-2, and cruising to a 7-2 triumph in Game 2.

JP WORLD

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fastbreak plays, but a triple from Preston Basa brought Toka's lead back to twin digits, 56-45.

Toka never relinquished the double-figure advantage from thereon with Ezra Caro, Jack Lizama, and Marvin Rabauliman delivering the killer blows in the fourth quarter. All three finished in twin digits with Lizama scoring 11, Rabauliman adding 16, and Caro chipping in 13. Basa and Barcinas added 15 and 10, respectively, while Jimmy Tudela contributed 8 before being thrown out of the game in the second quarter after figuring in an altercation with High-Five's Derrick Aughenbaugh.

Pangelinan led High-Five's losing cause with his 16 markers.

Meanwhile, in the first game, JP World got into business in the second half to foil the Rebels' upset bid.

The Rebels were in control of the first 20 minutes of play, leading by 6 after the first period, 20-14, and hanging on to the same margin by halftime, 37-31, thanks to Don Teregeyo's 9 points in the first canto and 8 from Trevor Ogumoro in the second.

Freddie Pelisamen and Jun Estolas, who combined for only five field goals in the first half, stepped up in the second to save JP World. Pelisamen banged in 9 points in the third, while Estolas contributed 6, as JP World grabbed the upper hand, 53-51.

Pelisamen kept going in the fourth canto, adding 8 more points, while drawing help from big man Gyles Ruluked, who nailed 8 of his 11 markers in the final canto. Forward Rolly Paraiso also had timely baskets in the fourth period and chipped in 4, 3 of them came late in the game, to lift JP World to victory.

The Rebels stayed in the game in the fourth canto by hitting triples in succession, but ran out of steam in the end.

With the win, JP World will play in the semifinals against the winner between the Blue Haus-Hoopaholics playoff match, while Toka will face the victor of the Island Manpower-Rollers duel.

First Game

JP World 77 – Pelisamen 28, J. Estolas 17, Ruluked 14, Paraiso 10, Sharry 4. D. Estolas 2, Peredo 2.

Rebels 69 – Ogumoro 21, Teregeyo 14, Lisua 10,Litulumar 8, Chen 5, Demapan 5, Babauta 5, Matsutaro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-20, 31-37, 53-51, 77-69.

Second Game

Toka 86 – Lizama 22, Rabauliman 16, Basa 15, Caro 13, Barcinas 10, Tudela 8.

High-Five 70 – Pangelinan 16, Brennan 15, McCain 12, Acosta 9, Coldeen 8, Wesley 5, Peters 4.

Scoring by quarters: 28-11, 44-31, 62-52, 86-70.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	20	.535	–
Baltimore	22	20	.524	½
Toronto	23	22	.511	1
Boston	20	23	.465	3
Tampa Bay	19	26	.422	5

Central Division

Detroit	27	13	.675	–
Kansas City	22	22	.500	7
Minnesota	21	21	.500	7
Chicago	22	24	.478	8
Cleveland	20	25	.444	9½

West Division

Oakland	28	16	.636	–
Los Angeles	24	20	.545	4
Seattle	21	22	.488	6½
Texas	21	23	.477	7
Houston	17	28	.378	11½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	24	19	.558	–
Washington	23	21	.523	1½
Miami	23	22	.511	2
New York	20	23	.465	4
Philadelphia	19	22	.463	4

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	18	.600	–
St. Louis	23	21	.523	3½
Cincinnati	20	23	.465	6
Pittsburgh	18	25	.419	8
Chicago	15	27	.357	10½

West Division

San Francisco	28	17	.622	–
Colorado	25	20	.556	3
Los Angeles	23	22	.511	5
San Diego	21	24	.467	7
Arizona	18	28	.391	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

JP Wordl's Juan Camacho pulls up for a jump hook against the Rollers' Prince Factor, right, and Irvin Malonzo, left, during their regular season game in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Rollers' Mike Arciaga drives past JP World's Errol Peredo, left, and Rolly Paraiso, right.

The Rebels' Ben Lisua draws contact with Blue Haus' Leo Galarse.

Blue Haus' Dart Demapan goes for a quick release in the paint against the Rebels' Zack Babauta, right, and Ben Lisua, left.

The Hoopaholics' James Lee makes a reverse layup against Toka's Jason Lampkin, right, and Jimmy Tudela, partly hidden, while Marvin Rabauliman looks on.

High-Five center Ken McCain goes for an easy bank shot against the Rollers.

The Rollers' Dixon Kwon unloads a short jumper versus High-Five's Haejun Park.

Toka's Ezra Caro is fouled by Rollers' Dixon Kwon on his way to the basket.

Rollers' C.J. Morales beats High-Five's Ken McCain in a battle for the loose ball under the basket.

Duncan helps Spurs rout Thunder in series opener
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brantley's homer in 10th beats Tigers, 5-4
PAGE 25

Seeded players deliver

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japan's Nanaka Takeuchi returns to Thailand's Gorbua Srisirisupayok during the second set of their first round game in the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Kanoa Resort tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ranked players in the boys singles division of the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships cruised past their respective opponents, as the first round of the Junior ITF competition kicked off yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club and Kanoa Resort tennis courts.

Top seed Jack Won of Hong Kong swept the CNMI's Moris Villanueva, 6-4, 6-1, to lead the Round 1 winners at the upper bracket of the 32-player draw. Other first round victors in top half of the draw were No. 4 Jesse Delaney of Australia, No. 5 Jack Barber of the U.S., No. 7 Ming Chung Alan Sou, Fabien Calloud, and Ching Lam of Hong Kong, Jerome Romualdez of the Philippines, and Chris Kafataris of Australia.

Delaney shut out former CNMI player and now Guam bet Christopher Cajigan, 6-0, 6-0, while Barber also took only two sets to

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JP World, Toka gain semis berths

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

JP World and Toka eliminated separate playoff foes last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court to advance to the semifinals of the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League.

JP World booked the first semis ticket after outclassing the Rebels in the curtain-raiser, 77-69, while Toka routed High-Five in the nightcap, 86-70, to notch the second Final Four berth.

Toka took control of the second playoff match right from the get-go and withstood High-Five's mini rally in the third period en route to the 16-point winning margin. The second-ranked Toka, which finished the regular season with a 6-1 record, built an early double-digit lead in the first canto, 28-11, with four of its starters drilling at least three baskets apiece.

High-Five fell behind early, as it had only three players making it to the board in the opening canto with Ken McCain and Tim Wesley canning two field goals each and John Acosta drilling a triple. High-Five played catch up since then and managed to cut the deficit to a single digit, 53-45, midway in the third canto, behind the three straight triples of Ed Pangelinan. High-Five had two chances to move closer, but missed on two

See JP WORLD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Toka's Jack Lizama, center, tries to wrestle the ball away from High-Five's Tim Wesley, while the latter's teammate Charlie Peters provides help defense during the third quarter of their playoff game in the QQ caging last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Back-to-back for Brewers

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The GSM Brewers huddle right after winning Game 2 of its best-of-five title series against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League. The Brewers wrapped up the championship series with a 10-9 win in Game 4 last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The GSM Brewers wrapped up their title series against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League, following a thrilling 10-9 win in Game 4 last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers notched their

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